

Historical Sketch

of the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HENDERSON, N. C.

1856 - 1956



**COMPILED FOR THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND
THE DEDICATION OF EDUCATIONAL BUILDING
DECEMBER 9, 1956**

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FOREWORD

In my attempt to jot down the birth, growth, and some of the fruits of the First Baptist Church of Henderson, I have sought information from previous historical papers, Minutes of The Tar River Association, and present members who have been long time citizens of Henderson.

Being a comparatively new member has caused me to wonder if I should be the one to try such a project, since there is a greater possibility that a newcomer might overlook someone or something of importance. However, if such is the case, it certainly was unintentional.

Our church was twenty-five years old when Vance County was established on May 24, 1881, yet, fifteen years younger than the city of Hendreson which received its charter in 1841.

Franklin Pierce, the fourteenth president of the United States was in office and North Carolina's Governor Bragg was serving when our Baptist Church was organized in 1856. Sixteen states have come into the Union since the birth of our church.

Thousands have drunk from it's spiritual waters, under the leadership of it's capable pastors during this hundred year period. Yes, we can establish the years of it's existance and the number of it's buildings but the spiritual influence which has permeated, enriched and strengthened the lives of the many worshipers is eternal.

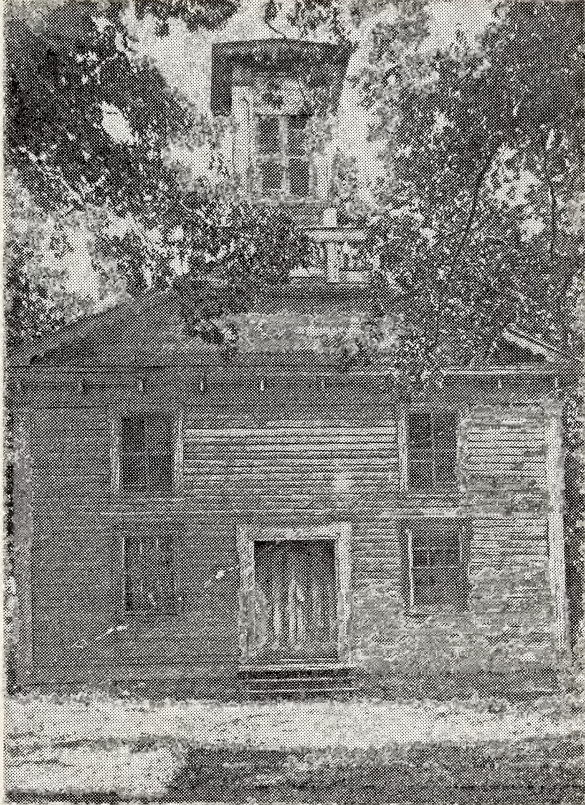
In the preparation of this story of our church, I have been assisted by many people but I would like particularly to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs. Richard Jones for her help in locating many pictures of former pastors and Mrs. F. D. Kesler for typing the material for publication.

Acknowledgement is also made of the fine reports from the various classes and for the use of the following source material:

T. M. Pittman Papers
J. T. Alderman Papers
Henderson Daily Dispatch
Bibical Recorder
Tar River Associational Minutes
Minutes of the Board of Deacons
Minutes of the Church
Church Bulletins

F. D. KESLER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP — BUILT IN 1858

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PASTORS OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HENDERSON, N. C. AND PERIODS OF THEIR MINISTRY

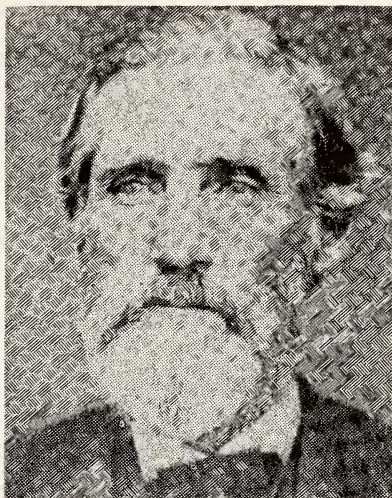
DR. W. T. BROOKS	1856 - 1876
DR. R. H. MARSH	1877 - 1880
DR. M. V. McDUFFIE	1881 - 1887
DR. ROBERT VAN DEVENTER	1887 - 1895
DR. J. W. MILLARD	1895 - 1896
DR. J. D. HUFHAM	1896 - 1903
REV. J. D. LARKINS	1904 - 1906
REV. J. R. DOAN	1907 - 1910
REV. JOHN W. MORGAN	1910 - 1912
REV. SAMUEL L. MORGAN	1912 - 1922
DR. HUGH A. ELLIS	1923 - 1933
REV. ALBERT S. HALE	1934 - 1939
DR. E. NORFLEET GARDNER	1939 - 1952
DR. W. W. LEATHERS, JR.	1953 -



CHURCH COVENANT

Church Covenant of the Henderson Baptist Church adopted on the 4th. Lord's Day in November A. D. 1870 the old one having been lost with the Church records during the late war:

"As we trust we have ben brought by Divine Grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ and by the influence of His Spirit to give ourselves up to Him: So we do now solemnly covenant with each other that God enabling us, we will walk together in brotherly love: that we will exercise a Christian care and watchfullness over each other and faithfully warn, rebuke and admonish one another as the case shall require: that we will not forsake the assembling ourselves together nor omit the great duty of prayer, both for ourselves and for others: that we will participate in each others joys and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each others burdens and sorrows: that we will earnestly endeavor to bring up such as may be under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord: that we will seek Divine aid to enable us to walk circumspectly and watchfully in the world: denying ungodliness and every wordly lust: that we will strive together for a faithful evangelical ministry among us: that we will endeavor by example and effort to win souls to Christ: and through evil and good report seek to live to the glory of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."



DR. W. T. BROOKS
1856 - 1876

FIRST PASTOR AND ORGANIZER
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—HENDERSON, N, C,



CHAPTER I
ORGANIZATION AND FIRST HOUSE OF WORSHIP
1856 - 1885

Authentic records with reference to the organization of the church are not available, however, it is generally believed to have been constituted in 1856 by Professor W. T. Brooks, D. D. of Wake Forest College. The Tar River Association records this year in the statistical tables of its minutes.

Tradition has it that possibly for the first two years services were held in the dining room of the Old Debnam Hotel which stood where the Vance Hotel is now located. It is the belief of Mrs. C. B. Reavis of Henderson that services for the first two years were held in the home of a very active member who lived next door to the Old Debnam Hotel and who worked for the railroad company. Mrs. Reavis also states that in the later part of the Civil War the Thrower family

moved into this house. This structure was thought to be a story and a half.

The number of charter members is unknown but in 1861, five years after its organization there were eleven white members and several colored members. It is estimated that the population of Henderson at the time of the organization of the church was approximately 175 persons.

Judge T. M. Pittman, father of Mrs. A. J. Davis, writes in his history of the church in 1905 that, "Henderson Baptist Church was admitted to the Tar River Association at Poplar Springs Church, Franklin County, August 17, 1858 and the fact noted as evidence of its progressiveness that it had a Sunday School. G. D. Parham and S. S. Bridgers were its Messengers to the Association. It was a mission station under the ministry of Elder W. T. Brooks of the Baptist State Convention, who was its pastor for many years." Judge Pittman also wrote that at the time of its organization the only Baptist Church within the present bounds of Vance County was Island Creek at Williamsboro, which was constituted November 27, 1820 by members dismissed from Grassy Creek Church, Granville County, for that purpose. Grassy Creek Church was organized in 1754.

A. T. Barnes, father of Mrs. Clarence E. Greene, in his history of the church written in 1921 wrote as follows: "In the year 1856 the Baptist people who lived in and near Henderson organized a Baptist Church. For about two yeras they met once each month in the dining room of the Debnam Hotel and had preaching. Dr. W. T. Brooks of Wkae Forest was called as Pastor and served for a number of years. With a small membership led by the pastor they decided to secure a lot and build a church. A lot was purchased from W. T. Brooks and S. D. Bivens." It was deeded to the following members of the church who were elected trustees: James Stampes, Charles Champion, Samuel J. Parham, P. R. Merrimon and Calvin Betts. The deed was made on the 15th. day of July, 1858. A building committee was selected by the church composed of Col. Samuel Parham and Mr. James Staunton. They had the lumber cut and sawed at a saw mill owned by Mr. A. A. Turner about one mile from town, (just beyon the colored college). The carpenters employed to do the work were Norage Wyche, (colored), Alex Turner, (colored), Aaron Pratener, (colored), and the plastering was done by Akram Farrer, (colored), and Sam Richardson, (colored).

This wooden structure was located where Henderson Senior High School is now located and faced Williams St. Mrs. J. T. Alderman in her historical sketch written in 1940 states "the First Church House



MRS KATE WATKINS — OLDEST LIVING MEMBER

was a weather boarded structure painted white with green blinds and was surrounded by fine oak trees, a lovely site."

Mr. Samuel J. Parham, one of the trustees listed above, is the father of our Mrs. Kate Watkins who at this writing is honroed to be the oldest member in our congregation, and the grandfather of Straughan and Jack Watkins and Mrs. Maria Legg,

Mrs.Kate Watkins is the sole remaining member who was a member when the congregation met in the first wooden building on William Street. Mrs. Watkins will reach age 90 in November 1956.

Following is an example of a report on admissions of a church into the Tar River Association in its early years: "The church at _____ made application for admission into our body. The letter, with covenant, articles of faith, etc., was referred to Brethern _____

who after examination, reported favorable upon its reception, and the moderator gave the right hand of fellowship to its delegates!!" As was stated previously, Henderson Baptist Church was admitted to the Tar River Association at Poplar Springs Church, Franklin County, August 17, 1858. G. K. Parham and S. S. Bridgers were its messengers. The forty-sixth annual session of the Tar River Association met in Henderson September 28, - 30, 1876.

Rev. Albert S. Hale in 1936 in a paper on the Henderson First

Baptist Church quoted Taylor in his History of the Tar River Association as saying that "Dr. W. T. Brooks graduated from Wake Forest College in 1839 and was for many years a professor in that institution. He was also chairman of the Board of Trustees of the college for a number of years. He was pastor of the Henderson Baptist Church twenty years." Rev. Hale also quoted Dr. G. W. Paschall in his history of Wake Forest College as saying Dr. Brooks had the chief part in building up the Baptist Church in Henderson.

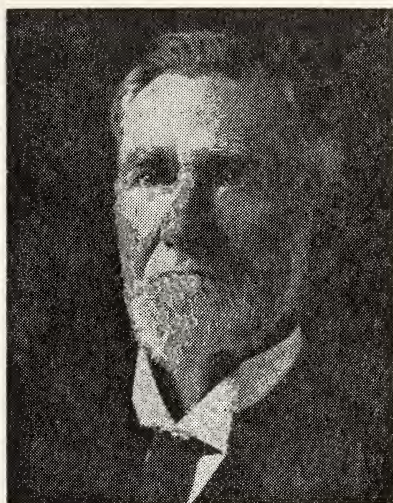
The late William Brooks Parham was named after this first pastor.

The writer was fortunate to read the minute book of the First Baptist Church which included the years from February 1870 through 1881. The two Church Clerks during this time were; J. H. Dunn and W. D. Horner. It was interesting to observe with what superior penmanship the minutes were written. In the early days of the life of our church and until about 1874 preaching was held once a month and mostly on the fourth Sunday. It is believed that our church had a Sunday School before some of it's sister churches in the Association however it is recorded that a committee consisting of S. J. Parham and J. H. Dunn was appointed by the church in 1870 to consideir a Sabbath School for the First Baptist Church and the report of this committee in that same year was unfavorable.

There were five colored members on the roll of the church in 1870. At a church conference on May 28, 1871 a letter of dismissal was granted Jane Blacknall a colored sister of this church to unite with another Church of the same faith and order.

Then as now the upkeep and repair of the house of worship was an important matter of business along with the way it will be paid. James H. Lassiter, Harrel Harris and J. H. Dunn were appointed in March 1871 to inquire into the expense of painting the church and to solicit funds to defray this expense, also a committee was appointed to investigate a leak in the roof.

After the usual morning service on the first Sunday in March 1874, the Church met in conference with Pastor Brooks presiding. The opportunity was offered to any wishing to unite with the church by letter or experience. The following candidates presented themselves: E. H. Thrower, Mary E. Horner, Fannie Harrell and Mr. D. H. Phillips who after relating their Christian experience were on motion of Bro. Walter Milne received as fit for baptism and the right hand of fellowship was extended to them by the Pastor and bidding the welcome. It was orered that the ordinance of Baptism be administered to the Candidates at Bro. Parishes Mill Pond at three o'clock P. M. on the fourth Sunday in March.



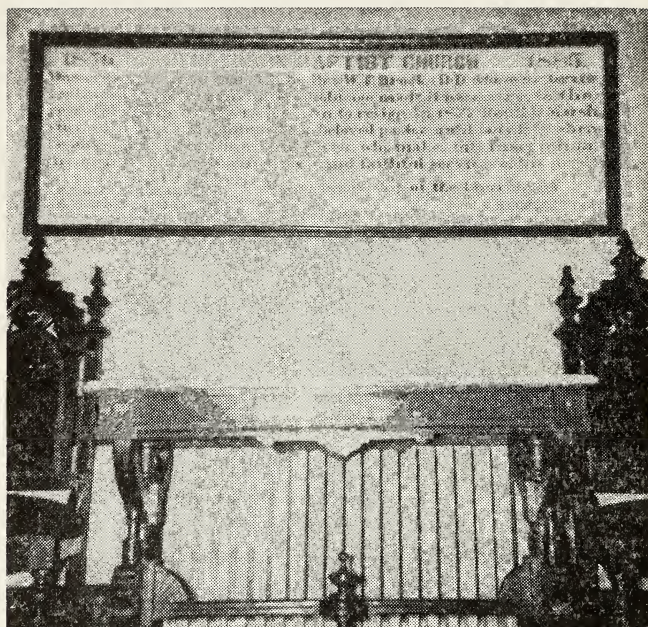
DR. R. H. MARSH
1876 - 1880

Although modes of travel were slow and good roads were hard to find our church kept interest in the State Convention by sending it's delegates. It was noted that in October 1874 Bretheren J. M. Currin, J. H. Lassiter and H. Harris were appointed delegates to The State Convention which met in Wilmington.

It would be of great interest to us eighty-two years later if these men had kept and passed on to us an account of this trip as to their means of transportation and the route by which they went, to say nothing of the towns and their size and the landscape at that time.

Records show that W. T. Brooks resigned in September 1876 and Rev. R. H. Marsh of Oxford, N. C. was elected to succeed Dr. Brooks at the same time. Rev. Marsh was offered \$350 a year for two services a month or \$200 a year for one service a month.

Naturally as we review the business sessions of the old churches we can see the contrast in expenditures of money for the comfort and welfare of it's members while attending their house of worship. One important item of business that came up at the Church conference in June 1878 was that Bro. Meadows moved that the Church Treasurer be ordered to purchase a water pitcher for use of the Church. Now, as we know of course, there are thousands of feet of water pipeline



1856 HENDERSON BAPTIST CHURCH 1885

Was organized about 1856, A. D. by Rev. W. T. Brooks, D. D. whose pastorate continued until the infirmities of old age made it necessary, to the regret of all the members, for him to resign. In 1887 Rev. R. H. Marsh succeeded by the present pastor, who makes this inscription through respect to the memory and faithful services of his predecessors and Co-laborers.

Present Membership of the Church 86.

S. P. PHIPPS, S. Dean.	} Deacons
J. R. Thrower, J. H. Lassiter	
August 1885	

M. V. McDUFFIE, Pastor
 J. S. HARPER, Treas.
 J. L. H. MISSILLIER, Clerk

in our present total Church buildings providing plenty of water plus water coolers.

Judge Thomas M. Pittman wrote "At the close of Dr. Brook's ministry in 1877, Dr. T. B. Kingsbury, of Oxford was called to the pastorate. He came only two or three times and for some reason withdrew." There is no authentic record of Dr. Kingsbury being pastor of this church. Rev. Hale quotes Dr. Taylor in his History of the Tar River Association, "In 1865 Dr. Kingsbury was pastor of the Methodist Church in Warrenton. He changed his views concerning Christian Baptism and was baptized in the First Baptist Church, Raleigh. Soon afterward he was ordained as a Baptist preacher. He accepted a call to become pastor of the Baptsit Church in Warrenton and served the church two or three years. Sometime in 1868, Dr. Kingsbury left Warrenton to become the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee."

It was noted in the Tar River Association Minutes of 1870 that the committee on Sunday Schools recommended that all churches in the Association start Sunday Schools.

Judge T. M. Pittman mentions Dr. T. B. Kingsbury as a person of high repute and one of the scholarly and graceful newspaper writers of the state and then a Baptist preacher. Judge Pittman further writes that Dr. R. H. Marsh, afterwards for many years the distinguished president of the Baptist State Convention, became pastor, a position he held until the close of 1881, when he was succeeded by Rev. M. V. McDuffie then fresh from college.

Brother McDuffie was pastor until the church's membership grew to be 86 in number. The Board of Deacons was composed of Brother S. Dean, J. H. Lassiter, S. P. Phipps and Capt. J. R. Thrower, Mr. Samuel Harper, Church Treasurer; J. L. H. Missillier, church clerk; W. D. Horner, Supt. of the Sunday School.

Sometime during the pastorate of Brother McDuffie the church was called in conference to consider building a new and larger church, to be built of brick, and this was an unusual undertaking and of course the debate was very warm -- they said there was not enough money to he had to even erect the walls of such a house among our members. These hot Baptist meetings were finally brought to a close by the pastor calling all the church members one Wednesday night to meet in the church for a final vote on this important movement. The vote was taken after the usual warm discussion and the motion to build a new church was lost by a good majority. Brother S. Dean after the vote was taken said, "If anyone here will stand by me, we will build a new

church." One of the sisters said she would stand and help to see it through. Then without anymore voting or discussion one by one dropped in line to build until about all present expressed themselves willing to get on the job. Brother McDuffie wiped the tears from his eyes and said, "Let us all pray." This was the ending of the old church building.

The life of the church naturally divided into three periods, marked by its erection of new meeting houses. The first period closed with the ministry of Dr. McDuffie, Feb. 13, 1884. Just two years after the beginning of his pastorate, a new church was determined on, with J. R. Thrower, grandfather of our Mrs. A. J. Davis, Architect; J. H. Lassiter, Treasurer and Brethern, M. V. McDuffie; J. H. Lassiter, W. D. Horner, father of T. G. Horner, S. Dean and J. L. H. Missillier, Building Committee.

In the Tar River Minutes of 1885, it was reported under Association Mission that "Elder M. V. McDuffie has been preaching once a month at a destitute point not very far from Littleton. Ten persons have been baptized and a church of 28 members has been organized."

Following is an article entitled "Church Discipline Once Was Strict", written by Sarah Giggs, which appeared in the Durham Morning Herald May 8, 1955, relating the power held by the old church over their members.

"If church discipline were administered today in North Carolina churches in the same manner that it was a century ago, there would be few members left in the churches.

From the time the state was first settled until the opening of the Civil War, the church had a great deal of authority over its members concerning matters that today are considered purely secular.

Each church set up its own standard of conduct for its members; and if the members did not conform to this standard, they were dismissed from the church or had other disciplinary action taken against them.

In the Methodist and Baptist churches such action was taken by the church in conference or a committee. In the case of the Baptist Church there was no right of appeal, but in all other churches a member might appeal to a higher council.

The vestry handled matters of discipline in the Episcopal Church, in the Moravian Church it was the Board of Elders. The church council made these decisions in the Lutheran Church, the Quaker Church took up such matters at its monthly meetings, and in

the Presbyterian Church this action was taken in the session.

Back in these early days the church court was a popular institution because most churches did not allow their members to "go to law" with other members before taking "Gospel steps" In fact, the church court was often more effective than the legal court, and there were no lawyer's fees to pay.

In 1727 the Moravian Church set up what was called the "Brotherly Agreement" to regulate the conduct of its members. This document reads:

"If, therefore, any member, in word or deed, act contrary to the rules and regulations of the Church, and, by his example, tempt others to do the same; transgressing the laws of the country; overreaching his neighbor in trade, taking part in gambling or lotteries, being guilty of lying, backbiting, and calumny; giving himself up to drunkenness; neglecting to satisfy his creditors; committing the sin of cursing and swearing, fornication and adultery, or other manifest works of the flesh, as enumerated in Gal. v. 19-21 such a one can no longer be considered a member of the Church."

Other churches drew up similar regulations for the conduct of its members, including in them the various principles of that particular church. For instance, the Quakers did not allow its members to own or hire slaves for profit, bear arms, or attend "stage plays, horseraces, music and dancing or any other such sports or pastimes."

Aside from the part concerning slaves and arms, all of the other churches had about the same regulations as did the Quakers. All churches frowned on the "superfluity of dress."

Records for Wheeley's Meeting House, a Baptist Church of Person County, show that a total of 501 cases of discipline were tried in the 69-year-period between 1791 and 1860.

According to these records, the leading number of cases tried during this period concerned drunkenness, with a total of 117 offenses. Other charges and their totals were: disputing with member, 56; neglecting church service, 48; being "out of the way," 36; immorality, 52; becoming angry, 18; taking communion with other societies, 18; Sabbath breaking, 12; bearing false witness, 10; and using rough language, eight.

Other charges included swearing, backsliding, keeping bad company, defrauding, dancing, theft, gambling, beating wife, Negro member

preaching without license, and refusing to listen to the "voice of the church."

One case tried by the Wheeley's Meeting House (this name was changed to Wheeler after 1830) concerning a young girl who was charged with being "out the way" and acting in "too familiar a manner with a certain young man." The evidence given at the trial showed that the young lady had whispered to the young man during church services.

The 117 cases of drunkenness shown in the church records do not mean that many persons were tried on this charge. One person, for instance, could be tried 10 or 12 times on this same charge. After a number of offenses of this nature, the congregation, might "give him up as a heathen man and publican."

At a church conference held in July 1875 the attention was called to the fact that the "Articles of Faith" and "Rules of Order" of this church had been lost during the late war and that there was none on the church records. Bro. J. H. Dunn moved that a committee of three be appointed by the moderator to prepare and report "Articles Faith" and "Rules of Order" and "Standing Resolutions" for the government of this church. The motion prevailed and J. H. Dunn, J. M. Currin and Harrel Harris were appointed a committee.

It is recorded that in 1878 a member of the church was asked to report to a committee with regard of being absent from the divine services of the church and asked to comply with regulations set down in Matthew 18 chapter 15, 16 and 17 verses. Following is a letter written to this member by the church clerk.

Dear Brother:

Your continual absence from the services of our church has been noticed with much concern and you are requested to come to our next conference and state your reasons. If it is too inconvenient for you to attend we recommend that you take a letter and join a church near you where you can more faithfully discharge your Christian duties and Church obligations.

Church Clerk

It was noticed also about this same time that a member was asked to withdraw his fellowship from the church due to his selling spiritous liquors.

So now we leaye the old House of Worship where our early members worshipped for nearly thirty years led by three outstanding

Christian ministers many devoted laymen. Even after the second house of worship was completed this wooden church was used for Sunday school rooms. In the little room on the right as you entered the front door a class of children was taught by Mrs. C. B. Waddill. Their ages range up to six years. On the left was a similiar room where a class of boys was taught by Mrs. C. M. Cooper. The main sanctuary was divided by a curtain and on the right was the Philathea Class, taught by Mrs. J. T. Alderman. On the left was the Baracca Class taught by the late J. C. Kittrell.

LIST OF DEACONS SINCE 1909 AND THEIR TERMS OF SERVICE
AS OBTAINED FROM THE MINUTES BOOK OF THE
BOARD OF DEACONS

(*Deceased)

<i>Names</i>	<i>Elected</i>		<i>Term Expired</i>
*J. T. Elmore	Feb. 10, 1909	to	Oct. 1, 1919
W. T. Carter	Feb. 10, 1909	to	Mch. 9, 1921
W. H. Wester	Feb. 10, 1909	to	Jan. 12, 1912
*J. S. Royster	Nov. 24, 1909	to	Oct. 17, 1928
T. P. Stewart	June 1894	to	Sept. 30, 1948
<i>(Elected Life Time Deacon)</i>			
*A. D. Wells	Nov. 24, 1909	to	Jan. 24, 1912
*A. T. Barnes	Nov. 24, 1909	to	Apr. 5, 1911
*H. Thomasson	Nov. 24, 1909	to	Jan. 7, 1914
*J. T. Alderman	Nov. 24, 1909	to	Oct. 17, 1928
J. I. Miller	May 10, 1911	to	Feb. 21, 1932
<i>(Moved to Richmond, Va., Now in Wilson, N. C.)</i>			
J. R. Teague	Jan. 12, 1912	to	Sept. 30, 1948
*W. B. Daniel, Sr.	Jan. 7, 1914	to	June 15, 1940
*T. M. Pittman	Mch. 7, 1917	to	Feb. 8, 1932
*W. W. Parker	Apr. 6, 1921	to	Nov. 15, 1931
*J. C. Kittrell	Apr. 6, 1921	to	Sept. 30, 1950
<i>(Elected Deacon Emeritus)</i>			
*Al B. Wester	Apr. 6, 1921	to	Sept. 30, 1951
Dr. B. G. Allen	Jan. 1, 1925	to	Sept. 30, 1934
*J. F. Mills	Oct. 19, 1930	to	Aug. 8, 1934
<i>(Resigned)</i>			
J. C. Whaley	Oct. 19, 1930	to	July 7, 1935
<i>(Moved to West Point, Va.)</i>			
*J. M. Hughes	Apr. 28, 1929	to	Aug. 12, 1943
*J. H. Bunn	Apr. 28, 1929	to	July 14, 1937
*Dr. R. T. Upchurch	Apr. 28, 1929	to	Oct. 25, 1931
T. W. Evans	Apr. 28, 1929	to	Oct. 25, 1931
<i>(Moved to Roanoke, Va.)</i>			

W. B. Daniel, Jr.	Oct. 19, 1930	to	Sept. 30, 1942
C. E. Greene	Oct. 26, 1931	to	Sept. 30, 1947
E. C. Morris	Oct. 26, 1931	to	Sept. 30, 1949
H. W. Anderson	Mch. 13, 1932	to	Sept. 30, 1951
J. S. Milne	Mch. 13, 1932	to	Sept. 30, 1948
J. C. Gardner	Mch. 13, 1932	to	Sept. 30, 1948
*Mrs. J. T. Alderman	Dec. 2, 1934	to	May 2, 1945
F. E. Pinnell	Dec. 2, 1934	to	Sept. 30, 1946
*R. J. Turner	Dec. 2, 1934	to	Sept. 30, 1946
M. C. Miles	Nov. 17, 1937	to	Sept. 30, 1949
C. P. Tanner	Oct. 10, 1937	to	Sept. 30, 1949
J. A. Cree	Oct. 10, 1937	to	June 22, 1945
<i>(Moved to Richmond, Va.)</i>			
R. D. Bunn	Oct. 10, 1937	to	Nov. 10, 1940
<i>(Moved to Leaksville, N. C.)</i>			
Dr. W. W. Noel	Dec. 22, 1940	ot	Sept. 30, 1951
A. L. McLemore	Oct. 1, 1942	to	Sept. 30, 1946
E. F. Parham	Oct. 1, 1942	to	Sept. 30, 1946
D. R. Hale	Oct. 1, 1942	to	Sept. 30, 1946
G. D. Rivers	Oct. 1, 1943	to	Sept. 30, 1947
<i>(Moved)</i>			
S. M. Crowder	Oct. 1, 1943	to	Sept. 30, 1947
B. C. Wells	Oct. 1, 1943	to	Sept. 30, 1947
Mrs. J. F. Mills	Oct. 1, 1944	to	Sept. 30, 1948
B. P. Terrell	Oct. 1, 1944	to	Sept. 30, 1948
M. B. Garrett	Oct. 1, 1945	to	Sept. 30, 1949
W. B. Daniel, Jr.	Oct. 1, 1945	to	Sept. 30, 1949
M. G. Davis	Oct. 1, 1946	to	Sept. 30, 1950
R. W. Ehret	Oct. 1, 1946	to	Sept. 30, 1948
<i>(Moved to Franklinton, N. C., 1948)</i>			
L. G. Frazier	Oct. 1, 1946	to	Sept. 30, 1950
L. E. Turner	Oct. 1, 1946	to	Sept. 30, 1950
V. G. Vaughan	Oct. 1, 1946	to	Sept. 30, 1950
F. E. Pinnell	Oct. 1, 1947	to	Sept. 30, 1951
A. L. McLemore	Oct. 1, 1947	to	Sept. 30, 1949
E. F. Parham	Oct. 1, 1947	to	Sept. 30, 1951
D. R. Hale	Oct. 1, 1947	to	Sept. 30, 1951
C. A. Beckwith	Oct. 1, 1948	to	Sept. 30, 1952
A. J. Watkins	Oct. 1, 1948	to	Sept. 30, 1950
<i>(Unexpired term R. W. Ehret)</i>			
O. H. Broadway	Oct. 1, 1948	to	Sept. 30, 1952
Mrs. R. H. Duke	Oct. 1, 1948	to	Sept. 30, 1952
C. E. Greene	Oct. 1, 1948	to	Sept. 30, 1952
B. C. Wells	Oct. 1, 1948	to	Sept. 30, 1952

C. B. White	Oct. 1, 1948	to	Sept. 30, 1952
W. H. Casper, Jr.	Oct. 1, 1949	to	Sept. 30, 1953
J. C. Gardner	Oct. 1, 1949	to	Sept. 30, 1953
Mrs. J. F. Mills	Oct. 1, 1949	to	Sept. 30, 1953
*E. F. Shaw	Oct. 1, 1949	to	Sept. 30, 1953
B. P. Terrell	Oct. 1, 1949	to	Sept. 30, 1953
S. H. Watkins	Oct. 1, 1949	to	Sept. 30, 1953
D. T. Fuller	Oct. 1, 1950	to	Sept. 30, 1954
M. B. Garrett	Oct. 1, 1950	to	Sept. 30, 1954
A. L. McLemore	Oct. 1, 1950	to	Sept. 30, 1954
M. C. Mlies	Oct. 1, 1950	to	Sept. 30, 1954
E. C. Morris	Oct. 1, 1950	to	Sept. 30, 1954

(Elected Deacon Emeritus)

C. E. Page, Jr.	Oct. 1, 1950	to	Sept. 30, 1954
M. G. Davis	Oct. 1, 1951	to	Sept. 30, 1955
L. G. Frazier	Oct. 1, 1951	to	Sept. 30, 1955
B. A. Hartness	Oct. 1, 1951	to	Sept. 30, 1955
A. V. Perry	Oct. 1, 1951	to	Sept. 30, 1955
L. E. Turner	Oct. 1, 1951	to	Sept. 30, 1955
A. J. Watkins	Oct. 1, 1951	to	Sept. 30, 1955
F. E. Pinnell	Oct. 1, 1952	to	Sept. 30, 1953

(Unexpired term of E. F. Shaw)

D. R. Hale	Oct. 1, 1952	to	Sept. 30, 1956
Dr. W. W. Noel	Oct. 1, 1952	to	Sept. 30, 1956
*E. F. Parham	Oct. 1, 1952	to	Sept. 30, 1956
H. W. Anderson	Oct. 1, 1952	to	Sept. 30, 1956
W. C. Clay, Jr.	Oct. 1, 1952	to	Sept. 30, 1956
F. D. Kesler	Oct. 1, 1952	to	Sept. 30, 1956
Mrs. W. B. Daniel	Oct. 1, 1953	to	Sept. 30, 1957
Mrs. R. H. Duke	Oct. 1, 1953	to	Sept. 30, 1957
C. E. Greene	Oct. 1, 1953	to	Sept. 30, 1957
T. A. Hoyle	Oct. 1, 1953	to	Sept. 30, 1957
B. C. Wells	Oct. 1, 1953	to	Sept. 30, 1957
O. H. Broadway	Oct. 1, 1953	to	Sept. 30, 1957

(Moved to Raleigh N. C.)

J. R. Teague	Oct. 1, 1954	to	Sept. 30, 1956
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(Unexpired term of E. F. Parham)

I. T. Hoyle	Oct. 1, 1954	to	Sept. 30, 1957
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(Unexpired term of O. H. Broadway)

J. C. Gardner	Oct. 1, 1954	to	Sept. 30, 1958
F. E. Pinnell	Oct. 1, 1954	to	Sept. 30, 1958
G. W. Knott	Oct. 1, 1954	to	Sept. 30, 1958
W. H. Phillips	Oct. 1, 1954	to	Sept. 30, 1958
S. H. Watkins	Oct. 1, 1954	to	Sept. 30, 1958

V. G. Vaughan	Oct. 1, 1954	to	Sept. 30, 1958
D. T. Fuller	Oct. 1, 1955	to	Sept. 30, 1959
M. B. Garrett	Oct. 1, 1955	to	Sept. 30, 1959
B. H. Hicks	Oct. 1, 1955	to	Sept. 30, 1959
A. L. McLemore	Oct. 1, 1955	to	Sept. 30, 1959
C. E. Page	Oct. 1, 1955	to	Sept. 30, 1959
M. W. Wester, Jr.	Oct. 1, 1955	to	Sept. 30, 1959

Lifetime Deacons — W. B. Daniel, T. M. Pittman, J. S. Royster, J. T. Alderman, J. C. Kittrell, T. P. Stewart, E. C. Morris.





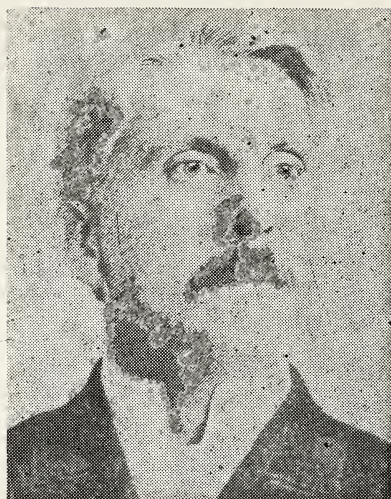
OLD BRICK CHURCH

CHAPTER II

FIRST BRICK BUILDING — SECOND
HOUSE OF WORSHIP

1886 - 1921

The second house of worship was completed at a cost of about \$5,500 and was entered for worship about the beginning of 1886, during the pastorate of Rev. McDuffie. This church as well as the first wooden church was located on North Williams Street between J. I. Miller's and A. J. Harris' where Henderson Senior High School now stands. This structure was described by Mrs. J. T. Alderman in a historical sketch written in 1940 as being not much larger than the old wooden building. "The brick church had stained glass windows and the building was heated by two stoves. The entire floor was carpeted. There were cards on the walls which carried a polite request that men should not spit on the carpet. The baptistry was built underneath the pulpit. In the past baptisms were held out in the open air. One Sunday wet spots were noticed on the carpet after some investigation it was



DR. ROBERT VAN DEVENTER
1887 - 1895

found that some boys had used the baptistry for a swimming pool." The first person to be baptized in the second building was J. Hill Parham, father of Mrs. J. C. Cooper.

In March 1887, Mr. McDuffie resigned to accept a call to New Brunswick, N. J. Thus ended part time preaching in Henderson Baptist Church.

Dr. Robert Van Deventer came to Henderson from Edenton, North Carolina and served as pastor of the Church from 1887 until 1895 when he went to Hawkinsville, Georgia. His was the first full time pastorate of the church and he received an annual salary of \$1,000.00.

It was the beginning of every Sunday preaching in Henderson churches, and probably the first time a Henderson pastor had received so large a salary. Indeed it was considered a good salary throughout North Carolina at that time.

Dr. Van Deventer was considered a fine Greek scholar, a hard student and a fresh interesting preacher. In particular he was an unusual pastor, and his work prospered. He remained about eight years, during which time the church attained a membership of two hundred or more and its contributions to various objects reached a point where they amounted to some \$27. per capita.

In October 1889 the Baptist State Convention was held in the

Henderson Baptist Church. Following are notices which appeared in the Biblical Recorder pertaining to the convention.

"Biblical Recorder Wednesday, October 30, 1889

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

The convention will meet with the church at Henderson, November 13th. and that church pursuant to custom, comes before the brethren with its announcement and requests:

1. It extends to the members of the conventions, the representatives of our Boards, and visitors from other Boards and Conventions, a cordial invitation to visit Henderson on this occasion.

2. Entertainment will be provided for members of the convention, representatives, boards and visitors and other Conventions who shall notify us of their purpose to attend the convention before November 10. After that date the Committee cannot undertake to provide entertainment. Persons who attend the convention without such notice will be understood as preferring to take care of themselves and will be allowed to do so. They would do well to engage quarters in advance, as it is quite likely every available room in town will be engaged before the convention.

All names and inquiries should be sent to J. L. H. Missillier, Secretary.

R. Van Deventer, Pastor
J. H. Lassiter
T. J. Mitchell
W. T. Stainback
T. M. Pittman
J. L. H. Missillier

"Biblical Recorder Wednesday, October 30, 1889." Rates of Board at Henderson during the session of the Convention.

The following rates will be charged at the hotels and boarding houses to persons attending the Convention at Henderson:

Massenburg Hotel	-----	\$2.00 per day
Transient House	-----	1.00 per day
Bowden House	-----	1.00 per day
Edwards House	-----	1.00 to 1.50 per day
Boarding Houses	-----	1.00 per day

Delegates are also requested to send in their names at once to

the Secretary of the Committee on Hospitality in order that no delay in securing homes will occur.

J. L. H. Missillier,
Secretary Committee on Hospitality

"Biblical Recorder Wednesday October 30, 1889

"TO THE DELEGATES WHO MAY ATTEND THE CONVENTION
AT HENDERSON"

Dear Brethren:

Please bring with you to the convention some money for the church at Benson, or ask your church to send a contribution.

The House cost \$475.00. I collected about \$225.00 and had to borrow \$250.00 to pay the contractor so as to get the use of the house. We have only fourteen members - - four males and ten females - - and all of them are weak financially.

Many individual brethren have helped liberally. I received at Durham, \$22.50; at Raleigh \$20.50; at Wake Forest, \$5.00; from Fayetteville Church \$6.00 and from Messrs. Rankin & Co. \$5.00.

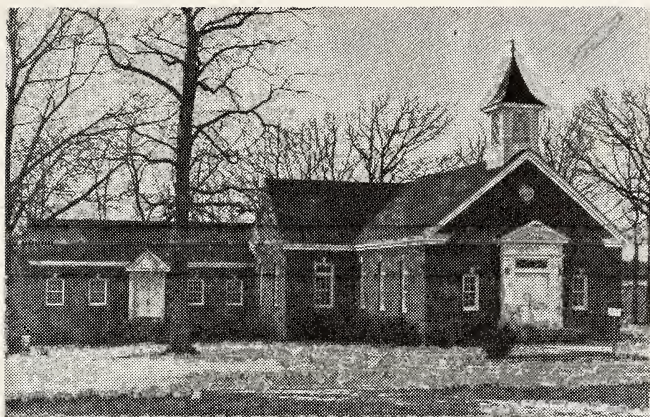
Benson is a new town on the Wilson Short Cut Railroad, between Smithfield and Dunn, in a section destitute of Baptist preaching. We need help, and need it now.

ALLEN BELTS
Pastor Benson Church
Winslow, October 22, 1889"

BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ORGANIZED

T. M. Pittman's article in the Gold Leaf, Henderson, N. C., August 3, 1905 states: "This church has given hearty support to all enterprises of the denomination, particularly to Wake Forest College, the Baptist Orphanage and the Baptist University for Women, the largest and best equipped Woman's College in the State, which was organized in this church during the State Convention in 1889." Pittman's article further states that two ministers went out from the church during the Van Deventer pastorate — Rev. A. Cree and Rev. A. C. Cree, both highly regarded as preachers and able scholarly men."

According to the proceedings of the Tar River Association at it's 62nd Annual Session in the church at Louisburg, October 5, 6, 7, and



CAREY'S BAPTIST CHURCH

8 of 1892 the following members represented Henderson First: T. J. Mitchell, T. P. Stewart, S. J. Parham.

T. P. Stewart was made a deacon in 1894 and in 1948 was elected a lifetime deacon. He is one of our oldest members at the age of 87 and continues to find spiritual refreshment in our house of worship.

In 1895 Henderson First had a membership of 224, Sandy Creek 238, and Popular Springs 270. The Tar River Minutes of 1955 show Poplar Springs at present has a grand total of 166 members, Sandy Creek 384 and Henderson First 1,326 members. Who in 1895 would have dreamed of such a growth within a period of sixty years would come to pass. This large increase in the membership of our church during this period of time certainly denotes that Baptist have that warm Christian fellowship for which man hungers.

Dr. Robert Van Devneter was pastor of Henderson First for about eight years and from here went to Hawkinsville, Georgia in 1895. He was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Millard who was reported as being an eloquent preacher and during his pastorate 23 members left in 1896 to organize Carey's Church, about three miles from town and which now has a total membership of 392 and a most influential congregation. Our Church bought the land on which Carey's Church built and until only recently when it's congregation needed more land to enlarge it's facilities, Henderson First gave them the deed since they needed it for further real estate transactions.

At the Annual Session of the Tar River Association held at Popular Springs in 1896, October 6 and 8, the following delegates rep-

resented Henderson First: J. H. Lassiter, Thomas Stewart and J. Wester. T. M. Pittman was church clerk.

Following is a letter written to the church in 1896 of which the writer is not known:

"Henderson, N. C. 1896
To the Baptist Church:

The past year was one of great prosperity with us, as will appear from a review of our operations.

On April 5th, twenty-three members were dismissed to constitute Carey Church, which was accomplished on the afternoon of that day. Persons from other churches also presented letters so that the church was organized with some thirty members. This church was represented on the occasion by it's Pastor, Rev. J. W. Millard and Brother James H. Lassiter, R. B. Hayes and W. B. Shaw.

On May 4, Brother Millard rendered his resignation as Pastor to take effect June 1, that he might accept the Pastorate of the Eutaw Place Church of Baltimore. The resignation was accepted and the church was without regular services until August when the services of Prof. W. R. Cullom were secured until October 1. On the second Sunday in October, the present pastor, J. D. Hufham entered upon the Pastorate.

During August it was learned that the residence of Mr. W. S. Clay situated on Turner Avenue could be purchased for \$1,500. A few bretheren negotiated its purchase for a parsonage through Brother James H. Lassiter, and reported to the church for approval on September 2, which was readily had. On September 19, \$300. was borrowed from the Citizens Bank. A Trust Deed on the property has been executed by the deacons under authority from the church to secure the balance of \$1,200.

The \$300. borrowed from the bank was repaid December 22.

Aside from the 23 members dismissed to constitute Carey Church, there have been 10 dismissals during the year and one exclusion. Two have died, Brother Walter Milne and D. H. Mangum, total 13.

Ten have been received by letter and ten by Baptism, making a total of 20, and one now awaits baptism.

But it is in it's financial operation that the prosperity of the church has been most marked. The affairs of the previous year were not wholly adjusted at the beginning of the year, besides which there

were various old debts of more than a year's standing aggregating an amount which caused a feeling of gloom to spread over the church.

There was due on the old note about.....	\$105.00
To Brother Jas. H. Lassiter.....	390.39
To Brother H. Thomerson.....	25.17
To J. A. Kelly.....	25.87
	<hr/>
	\$546.43

All expenses of 1896 have been fully met and also of the old debt in the amount of \$156.04, leaving a balance of \$390.39.

At the same time the church has kept up its contributions to various denominational enterprises, so that the treasurer's report shows a most healthy condition."

The membership of the church in 1896 was 208. There were 40 in Sunday School plus 15 teachers.

The W. S. Clay residence on Turner Ave. referred to in the above letter is now the home of our Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Teague.

As the above letter stated Rev. Millard served the church for about a year and went to the Eutaw Baptist Church in Baltimore and later served as Pastor of the Ponce De Leon Church of Atlanta, Georgia.

Rev. J. D. Hufham, D. D., became pastor of the church in 1896 and held the pastorate for about seven years. Previous writings state that he was often called "Baptist Bishop of North Carolina". During his stay, the North and South Henderson churches were constituted. A house of Worship was completed at South Henderson and one begun at North Henderson. In 1955 North Henderson Church had a total membership of 446 and South Henderson Church (named Second Baptist in 1953) had 314 members. An excellent parsonage was bought and fully paid for during Dr. Hufham's pastorate.

Dr. Hufman was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Henderson Schools, being elected in 1899, and later became chairman of the Board.

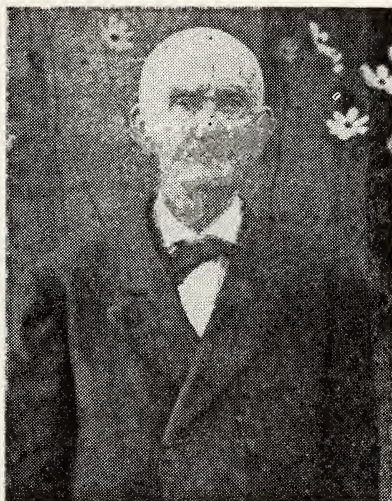
Dr. Hufham, T. M. Pittman and J. T. Alderman were very active in the Baptist Historical Commission contributing many articles to this organization. Rev. Hufham and Thomas M. Pittman were on the Publication Committee and the "Baptist Historical Papers" sponsored by the North Carolina Baptist Society were published in Henderson



NORTH HENDERSON BAPTIST CHURCH



SOUTH HENDERSON BAPTIST CHURCH

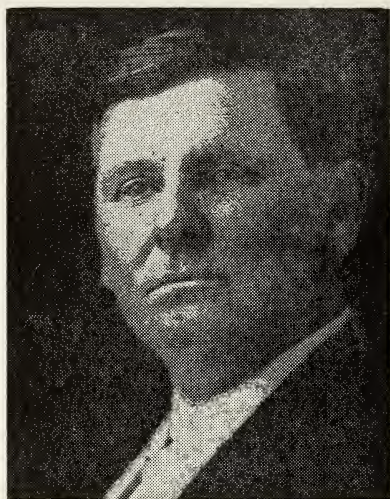


DR. J. D. HUFHAM
1896 - 1903

by the above for many years. Judge Pittman was also a former Superior Court Judge and Chairman of the State Historical Commission. He was at one time Vice President of the Baptist State Convention and for several years Chairman of Henderson Baptist Church Board of Deacons.

Dr. Geroge W. Paschal dedicated his "History of the Baptist in North Carolina" to J. T. Alderman. Mr. Alderman was at one time Chairman of the Baptist Historical Commission and for sixteen years a member of the Board of Directors of the State School for the Blind in Raleigh. He organized the public school system in Henderson in 1899 and was a lecturer on North Carolina History. J. T. Alderman served as Chairman of the Baptist State Convention for eleven years and served in the State Senate for four years.

At the close of Dr. Hufham's pastorate, which was a retirement from active ministry brought on by age and ill health, he was given an outstanding tribute. The other churches of Henderson held a service at the Methodist Protestant Church and many expressions of affection were given. The Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist State Convention, Rev. Livingston Johnson, and Gov. C. B. Aycock from Raleigh came and took part in the service. A newspaper article in 1926 stated Thomas M. Pittman spoke and Dr. Parham responded. Dr. Hufham's Pastorate came to a close in 1903. According to the minutes of



REV. J. D. LARKINS
1904 - 1906

the Tar River Annual Session which was held in Rocky Mount in October of 1903 Henderson First had 142 church members and 105 enrollment in Sunday School. J. I. Miller was Church Clerk and Mrs. W. D. Horner was Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Rev. J. R. Edwards supplied for a few months after Dr. Hufham retired and in 1904 Rev. J. D. Larkins was called to serve. He remained until 1906. Rev. Larkins was the uncle of J. D. Larkins who at the time of this writing is Chairman of the North Carolina Democratic Party. The Associational Minutes in 1906 show that the church property was valued at \$9,000 and that J. L. H. Missilier was Church Clerk. Salary paid to the pastor was \$800.00. The amount spent on building and repairing was \$843.04. Contributions to various church causes that year were as follows: Associational Missions \$115.00, State Missions \$65.89, Home Missions \$22.95, Foreign Missions \$145.00, Orphanage \$208.54, Aged Ministers \$25.00, other objects \$11.20, minutes \$1.50

Rev. J. R. Doan became Pastor in 1907 and served until 1910. The 77th Annual Session of the Tar River Association met in Henderson in 1907 and the following members were delegates: J. T. Alderman, J. A. Kelly and T. M. Pittman. Movement for the present church was begun under Rev. Doan's Pastorate. A committee composed of the following was appointed in February 1910 to select a site on which



REV. J. R. DOAN
1907 - 1910

to build: James I. Miller, W. W. Parker, A. T. Barnes, J. T. Elmore, Mrs. C. M. Cooper, Mrs. W. B. Waddill and Mrs. W. H. Wester. Other Committees were as follows: Design, members of which were T. M. Pittman, J. S. Royster, J. L. H. Missillier, T. G. Horner and Mrs. J. R. Doan; Finance, J. T. Elmore, J. H. Parham, W. W. Parker and A. T. Barnes.

The Committee on Design was requested to secure plans for a church building, the cost not to exceed \$30,000 nor less than \$20,000. J. M. McMichael of Charlotte was the architect.

The site originally selected on which to build, as stated by Mr. James I. Miller in a letter to the writer dated January 12, 1956, was the property on main street next to the Post Office, extending through to the street immediately in the rear and including a nice lot behind the Post Office. Later on this property was considered inadequate and was sold for a little more than four times its cost to the church and the present location was purchased from Mrs. J. H. Tucker. One factor which influenced the purchase of the Tucker lot was that it would be far enough from the main street to avoid the noise and confusion of the times.

It seems there were four sites under consideration for the present building. Some favored the location on Williams Street where the

first two buildings were constructed. Another site was at the old Asa Parham home and Henderson Vulcanizing Company. The third site was on Garnett Street from the Post Office down to where the old Busy Bee Cafe was located. This area was purchased in 1910 for \$9,000. and was considered inadequate and was sold. The fourth and present site was selected to be the location of the new building and was purchased in 1914 from Mrs. J. H. Tucker for \$21,000. The property purchased in 1910 for \$9,000 was sold as follows: Garnett Street front \$21,000, the lots on the back street were sold to the telephone company and Masonic Order for \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

Following is a description of the transaction taken from the record of May 13, 1914 as written by Rev. A. S. Hale: "The church lot committee through J. C. Kittrell reported that Mrs. J. H. Tucker had made a price of \$18,000 on 180 feet frontage on Wyche Street and approximately 185 feet on Winder Street of her home site. In July 1914, a recommendation was adopted that the Tucker residence property, consisting of the whole Wyche alley front from Winder to Orange streets, running back 180 feet and as much farther as might be necessary to embrace the large oaks at the price of \$21,000. This was accepted conditioned upon the sale of 90 x 100 feet of the Garnett Street property for not less than \$20,000. The Garnett Street property was sold for \$21,000, and comprised the purchase price of the present property. The remainder of the lot bought in 1910 for \$9,000 was sold to the telephone company and Masonic Order for \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively."

Our Mrs. Richard Jones states she remembers the old Tucker home very well in that she use to board there before her marriage. She recalls seeing Dr. Tucker very often driving his horse and buggy to the barn which was located where our new educational building is now standing. The old Tucker home was moved from it's original site to face Orange Street and became the church parsonage. Rev. S. L. Morgan, Dr. Hugh Ellis and Dr. Norfleet Gardner lived in this parsonage. Rev. Hale who was here just before Dr. Gardner lived in what we now know as the old Joyner house on the west side of our present church building. This adjoining property and the house on it has been recently purchased by our church.

The church rented the old Tucker home to the Kesler Funeral Home from 1940 to about 1947. This old structure had to be torn down to make way for our educational building.

Plans for the new church building and the third house of worship included a church auditorium, Sunday School auditorium, seventeen classrooms, later increased to thirty-six, kitchen, three large basement rooms which include: ladies parlor, Baraca Class and Junior

Department. Progress was halted during World War I and the depression. After World War I plans were enlarged and \$200,000 was appropriated and construction began immediately.

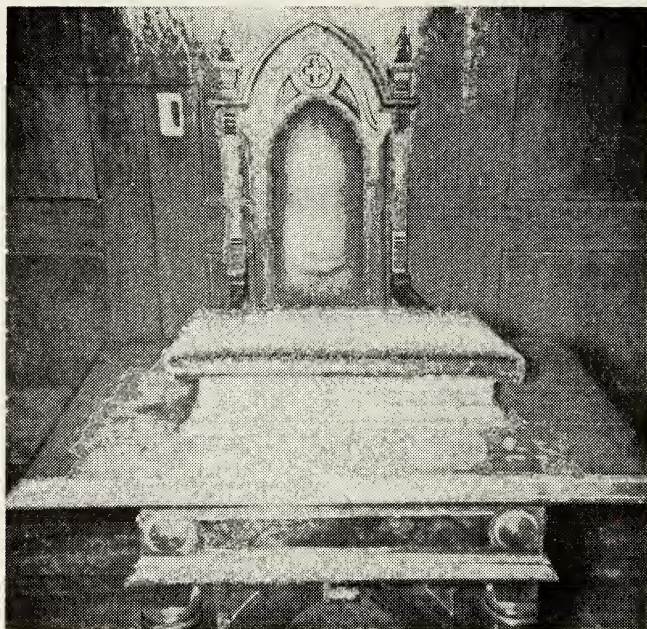
The writer was informed that one influential church member who visited out of the state frequently, learned of a church in another state that had a swimming pool in its basement. Thus this member began a movement here to provide in the plans for a swimming pool in the basement of the proposed new building where the ladies parlor is now located. Funds were solicited to finance the construction of this pool but the idea later faded out and the money collected was given over to the general building fund.

In 1910, the membership of the church was 208. Sunday School membership was 280, with 140 average attendance. A. T. Barnes was Sunday School Superintendent, and J. L. H. Missillier was Church Clerk. The value of the church property was \$20,000, and the seating capacity of the church was 300.

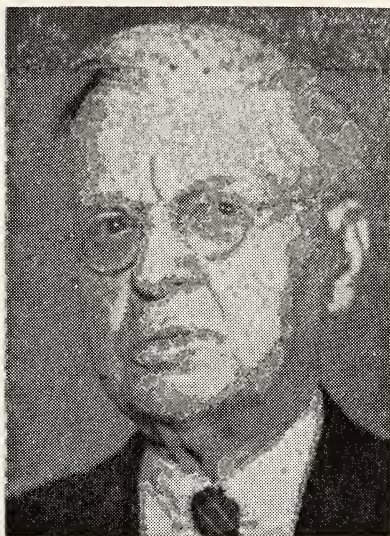
Rev. Doan resigned in July 1910 and was followed by Rev. John W. Morgan, who when called was Pastor in New Albany, Ind. and doing graduate work in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Rev. John Morgan's ministry continued until September 8, 1912 and he was followed by his brother Rev. Samuel L. Morgan on the 29th of September of the same year.

Our church was given its present name officially March 7, 1917 with the following resolution: "That this church shall hereafter be known and designated as the First Baptist Church of Henderson, and that the Deacons be and are declared ex-officio trustees of the church, and as such, vested with the title of all property of the church."

So now we leave the second house of worship and the site on which the first two Baptist Churches of Henderson were located, where for a period of sixty-three years Henderson's early Baptists worshipped and enjoyed good fellowship. However for about two years after the congregation moved to the present building this old brick church was used by the Henderson Schools to house four first grades and two second grades. The brick building remained standing until it was torn down about 1936 to make room for the present Henderson Senior High School.



**CHAIR AND LECTERN USED IN OLD
BRICK CHURCH**



REV. SAMUEL L. MORGAN
1912 - 1922

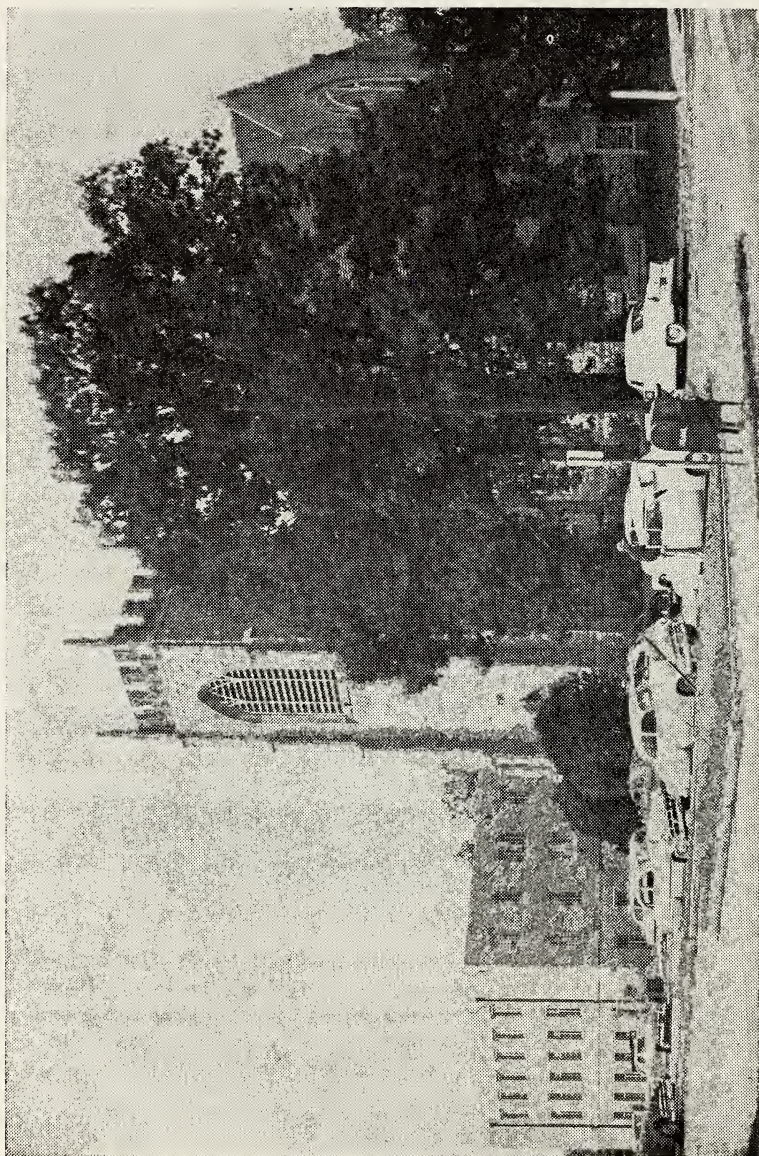
CHAPTER III PRESENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The church entered the Sunday School portion of our present building in the spring of 1921, according to history compiled by T. M. Pittman and work was suspended for a time.

Rev. Samuel L. Morgan's pastorate continued until June 4, 1922, when he resigned to become Pastor at Ramseur, N. C. It was during his ministry that the congregation moved into the Sunday School Auditorium of our present building.

At the time of this writing, Rev. Morgan is retired from the active ministry and has his residence in Wake Forest, N. C. Frequently articles written by him are seen in the BIBLICAL RECORDER.

In 1921 there was a total enrollment of 411 in Sunday School. J. R. Teague was superintendent. The church membership was 501. The pastor's salary was \$2400 annually. Value of church property was set at \$150,000. W. B. Daniel, Jr. was church clerk. Names of those baptized at the first baptismal service in the present church in June 19, 1921 are: S. L. Morgan, Jr., Ferrell Joyner, Roma Hines, J. Randolph Teague, G. Durward Royster, and Iola Faulkner.



PRESENT CHURCH AND EDUCATIONAL BUILDING



DR. HUGH A. ELLIS
1923 - 1933

Rev. Hugh A. Ellis began his ministry on Feb. 4, 1923, Church Membership 547, Sunday School 464, Total Contributions \$13,772.10, and continued until his resignation to accept the call of pastor to the First Baptist Church at Wilson, N. C. August 8, 1933. T. M. Pittman stated in his writings that "work towards completion of the building was begun in the year 1925, and that a large committee was appointed of whom Thomas G. Horner, J. T. Elmore, and J. F. Mills acted as Building Committee and Al B. Wester as Chairman of Finance Committee.

Among officials members of the church were: Board of Deacons and ex-officio trustees, Thomas M. Pittman, Chairman; J. T. Alderman, Clerk; T. P. Stewart, Joseph S. Royster, J. R. Teague, W. B. Daniel, J. C. Kittrell, J. C. Whaley, Al B. Wester, J. I. Miller, Dr. B. G. Allen, J. F. Mills, and W. W. Parker. Financial Secretary was Mrs. J. T. Alderman, General Treasurer, Thomas G. Horner; Benevolence Treasurer, Mrs. R. J. Jones; Organist, Miss Dorothy Jones".

Rev. Ellis was born in England and was a graduate of Dunoon Theological Seminary of Scotland. He attended Glasgow University and held pastorates in Toronto, Canada and Ashland, Virginia. He was naturalized while living in Henderson. On September 23, 1926, during his ministry. the main auditorium of the church was occupied.

The present building was erected with Mt. Airy granite. Although a figure of \$30,000 was set as the maximum for the cost, improved conditions led to an enlargement of the plans and the present building, without any recent additions, represents an outlay of \$180,000.

Following is a program of the order of dedicatory services which was held on September 12, 1926:

MORNING SERVICE, 11:00 A. M.

Organ Prelude, "Pilgrim's Chorus from Tannhouse", Wagner.

Doxology.

Invocation.

Response by Choir.

Hymn No. 8.

Prayer, by the Pastor, Rev. Hugh A. Ellis.

Anthem, "Dedication", by Dudley Buck.

Scripture Reading.

Announcements.

Addresses by J. C. Kittrell, Thomas G. Horner.

Response, by Judge Thomas M. Pittman.

Adoption of Certain Resolutions.

Offeratory.

Solo, "Come Ye Blessed", John Prindle Scott, by Miss Martha Everett.

Sermon by the Pastor.

Closing Hymn No. 373.

Benediction

Organ Postlude, March from "Aida", Verdi."

AFTERNOON SERVICE, 4:00 P. M.

Organ Prelude, "Largo", Handel.

Hymn No. 265.

Anthem, "Praise the Lord, O My Soul", Myles Foster.

Prayer.

Addresses by Dr. William Louis Poteat, President of Wake Forest College; Rev. Isaac Wayne Hughes, Rector Holy Innocents Episcopal Church.

Solo, by Mrs. Benjamin Parham, of Oxford.

Addresses by Rev. Christopher Taffett, Pastor Presbyterian Church; Rev. H. B. Porter, Pastor Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev. R. A. Hunter, Pastor Methodist Protestant Church; Rev. F. D. Ballard, Pastor Christian Church.

Anthem, "O How Amiable Are Thy Dwellings," Barnby.

Address, by Rev. E. R. Nelson.

Response, by the Pastor.

Closing Prayer.

Organ Postlude, March from 'Athalia', Mendelsohn.

EVENING SERVICE, 8:00 P. M.

Organ Prelude, "At Twilight", F. Harker.

Hymn No. 31.

Scripture Reading.

Anthem, "Recessional", deKoven.

Announcements.

Offertory.

Anthem, "Sanctus", from St. Cecilia Mass, Gounod.

Prayer.

Hymn No. 74.

Sermon by Rev. Samuel L. Morgan of Smithfield, N. C.

Hymn No. 203.

Benediction.

Organ Postlude, March Pontificale, Gounod.

The membership of the church at this time was about 700. Total Contributions \$32,863.65. There was a total enrollment in the Sunday School of approximately 775. H. W. Anderson was Church Clerk and W. C. Cates was Superintendent of Sunday School. The main auditorium including the balcony will seat between 500 to 600 persons.

The first funeral held in the present building was held for A. T. Barnes who passed away in 1926. The first formal wedding was in 1928 with the marriage of Miss Virginia Barnes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Barnes, to Mr. C. E. Greene.

Rev. Ellis' pastorate ended August 8, 1933. He resigned to become pastor of the First Baptist Church in Wilson, N. C.

Rev. Clarence H. Patrick supplied until Rev. Albert S. Hale became Pastor July 1, 1934. Rev. Hale continued until his resignation on Sunday, November 27, 1938, when he accepted the ministry of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Airy.

The entire debt of the present church building was paid off late in 1936 during the pastorate of Rev. Hale. On Sunday December 6, 1936 a dedicatory service was held, there being two programs one at 11:00 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Dr. H. A. Ellis, former Pastor of the church for 10 years and at that time pastor of the First Baptist Church at Wilson, preached at the morning service. The Evening sermon was given by S. L. Morgan of Creedmore. Rev. Morgan was pastor of our church for 10 years.

A feature of the forenoon service was the burning of the mortgage. Mrs. J. L. H. Missillier, one of our four oldest living members



REV. ALBERT S. HALE

1934 - 1939

at the time of this service, was a semi-invalid and was brought in a rolling chair from Maria Parham Hospital to take part in the burning of the mortgage.

Following is the order of services as taken from the Henderson Daily Dispatch, Saturday, Dec. 5, 1936:

11:00 O'CLOCK SERVICE

Organ Prelude, Mediation, by Lemore.

Doxology and Invocation.

Response by Choir, "Just For Today", Bowles.

Hymn, "The Church's One Foundation".

Scripture Lesson.

Prayer.

Recognition of Guests and Former Members.

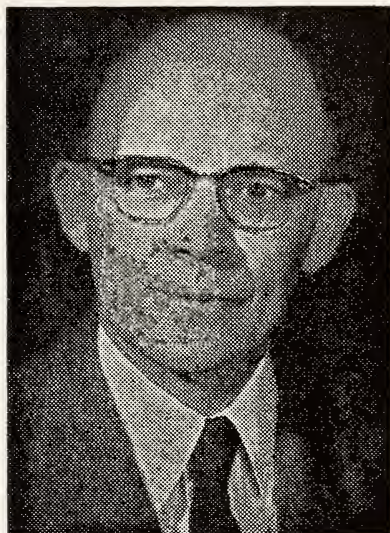
Hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers".

Offertory Anthem, "The Lord is Exalted", West.

Burning of Cancelled Mortgage.

Sermon of Dedication, Dr. Hugh A. Ellis, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Wilson.

Hymn, "How Firm A Foundation".



DR. E. NORFLEET GARDNER
1939 - 1952

Benediction.

Organ Postlude.

7:30 P. M. SERVICE

Organ Prelude.

Hymn, "Day is Dying in The West".

Scripture Lesson.

Prayer.

Brief Resume of History of First Baptist Church by the Pastor, Rev.
Albert S. Hale.

Hymn, "Savior, Blessed Savior".

Offertory Anthem, "The Lamps in The West", Speaks.

Sermon, Rev. Samuel L. Morgan, Pastor Creedmore Baptist Church,
Creedmore.

Hymn, "The Lord Be With Us".

Benediction.

Organ Postlude.

In 1936 the membership of the church was 868. The Sunday School enrollment was 681 with average attendance of 372. The total value of church property was \$205,000.

Rev. E. Norfleet Gardner began his ministry in April 1939 and continued until his resignation December 1952 to accept the call as

Pastor of First Baptist Church of Laurinburg, Laurinburg, N. C. where he now serves.

It was in his ministry that the movement for an Educational Fund was started with the aim of erecting an Educational Building. Our present church parsonage was given to the church out of a deep devotion to Dr. Gardner by S. S. Parham, founder of Carolina Bagging Company of Henderson and brother of Mrs. Kate Watkins. In 1948 upwards of \$20,000 was given for the raising of a sum for the Educational Building. By December 1952, \$80,000 had been raised.

In 1939, the beginning of Dr. Gardner's ministry, the church membership was 939. An amount of \$2,912.01 was expended for current expenses, with \$942.38 given to benevolences. The Sunday School enrollment was 635 and the W. M. U. enrollment numbered 299. By 1940, the Sunday School enrollment had increased to 763, with an average attendance of 433, which was the largest average attendance in the history of the church. F. E. Pinnell was Sunday School Superintendent. Also, in the same year, church membership had increased to 986. H. W. Anderson was Church Clerk.

The Tar River Association Met At Henderson First Oct. 9, 1940

HENDERSON DAILY DISPATCH

Wednesday, October 9, 1940

MILITANT RELIGION URGED ON TAR RIVER BAPTIST AT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Laxness Deplored by Speakers at Annual Gathering Here; 350 in Attendance from Sixty One Churches; Years Gifts \$50,000

Meeting here today in its 110th annual session, the Tar River Association heard speakers point out shortcomings of the church and sound a call to a renewed militancy in behalf of the propagation of Christianity. Some 320 delegates were registered from the 61 churches in the association.

J. Edward Allen, of Warrenton, moderator, after recounting effects of the war on church work abroad, declared "there is no great cause for profound satisfaction concerning conditions here among us," adding "a great awakening to the things of the spirit is the predominant need of our people." Dr. A. Paul Bagby, pastor of the Louisburg Baptist church, in preaching the annual sermon, on the theme "Our Faults and Failures", said organized religion had failed and "our impact on the world has been feeble," and declared "there is too much



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PARSONAGE

propaganda and too little propagation" of the gospel.

WELCOME by KITTRELL—

The association was welcomed to Henderson by J. C. Kittrell, prominent local attorney, who gave the welcome address the last time the association met with the First Baptist church here 33 years ago in 1907. He said the church had 500 members in 1907, and today has 1,000, but "best of all, we have grown in fellowship and faith and love for the Baptist of Tar River Association one faith, one hope, in the old fashioned way."

ALLEN MODERATOR—

With J. Edward Allen as moderator presiding, the devotional program this morning was conducted by Rev. E. Norfleet Gardner, pastor of the local church, and Miss Elizabeth Shaw sang a solo, "The Lord's Prayer."

Two new ministers were welcomed into the association. They were Rev. Wayne Oates, student at Wake Forest College, and pastor of Bunn and Peachtree churches, and Rev. Raymond Moore, pastor of Rock Spring church near Louisburg, and one other church.

The general theme of the convention is "The Kingdom Come," and the devotionals and later subjects were centered around that thought. Rev. J. F. Finch, of Norlina, conducted the discussion on religious literature, and during that period a talk was given by Rev. A. S. Hale, pastor of the First Baptist church of Mt. Airy, and former

pastor here, on the position of Christian literature in the development of the Christian life.

The annual sermon by Dr. Bagby, on "Our Faults and Failures," followed, after which adjournment was had for dinner, which was served to the visitors in the basement of the church, by ladies of the congregation.

FORMER PASTOR HEARD—

At the afternnoon session, the first number was a talk by Rev. John A. Larkins, of Wilmington, pastor of the local church from 1904 to 1906, who spoke on "Thy Kingdom Come; Its Meaning for Him Who Prays."

Numerous reports were to be heard during the afternoon, along with an address Rev. J. Carlyle Powell, missionary to Africa.

At tonight's session the Henderson high school band is to play several selections, and an address will be given by Rev. Clarence H. Patrick, Greenville pastor, and former pastor of local church. A report on the Baptist Orphanage is to be given by Mrs. W. B. Daniel, and Dr. I. G. Grier, superintendent of the Thomasville Orphanage is to speak on the work there and he and Mrs. Grier will give a lecture on Mountain Ballads and Folk Songs." The general public was invited to hear this address.

TOMORROW'S SERVICES—

Rev. E. R. Nelson, of this city, will lead the devotionals Thursday morning and a number of other addresses will be heard. The convention will be guest of ladies of the local church at a dinner during the noon recess Thursday and the afternoon session will end the convention. On the program for Thursday are two former pastors of the local church, Dr. H. A. Ellis, of Wilson, and Rev. S. L. Morgan, of Wake Forest.

GIFTS OVER \$50,000—

Reports made to the association showed 13,629 members in the 61 churches of the association, with 9,144 enrolled in the Sunday schools. Baptisms reported were 443, and pastors of the churches were paid an aggregate of \$19,119.85. Gifts to denominational causes were listed at \$1,837.65 and to the orphanage \$3,362.62, while organizations were \$7,603.34, with total gifts by the church and all of its organizations amounting to \$50,411.85.

OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION—

Officers of the association, in addition to the moderator, are: F. E. Pinnell, Henderson, vice moderator; Rev. E. Norfleet Gardner, Hen-

derson, clerk; M. K. Aycock, auditor, and Mrs. J. T. Alderman, Henderson, historian.

The executive committee consists of the moderator, the clerk; W. F. Williams, Littleton; Rev. E. R. Nelson, Henderson; Watson Bowers, Littleton; C. E. Greene, Henderson; R. G. Bailey, Louisburg; Rev. John Edwards, R. F. D., Louisburg; F. E. Pinnell, Henderson.

In his welcome address, Mr. Kittrell recalled distinguished members of the local church who have died since the last association meeting here. He referred to Judge T. M. Pittman, Sheriff J. S. Royster, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Elmore, W. W. Parker, Mrs. J. H. L. Missilier, A. T. Barnes, W. H. Wester, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Daniel. "The spirit of these who have gone to their reward, in the work they have done, and in their sons and daughters, has thriced blessed us," he said.

GROWTH OF LOCAL CHURCH—

In addition to doubling its membership from 500 to 1,000 in the 33 years, Mr. Kittrell said the Sunday school had grown from 150 to 500; the Baraca class from ten to fifteen to 100, and the Philathea class has equalled this, and each class has furnished a president of the State Association. E. G. Shaw of the Baracas and Mrs. J. F. Mills, three times and at the present State Philathea president.

DEPLORES FEW PASTORS—

Citing development of the World War since the association met a year ago, Mr. Allen observed, "How long shall we be at peace ere bombs fall on our doorsteps, no one predicts." "The war-tone world pathetically needs the gospel of love in Christ Jesus," he declared. "Today we need the sort of dynamic philosophy of life with God in our midst and not merely the rule of fear of a catastrophe."

Mr. Allen deplores the number of churches that are without pastors, and declared "we are at the cross roads in many of our churches."

Mr. Allen cited the need for revitalizing the Sunday Schools, and directed attention to "the obligation we owe to the youth in our midst," declaring "there are many forces which are in keen competition for our young people, and if we don't measure, expand and strengthen our efficiency, or hold upon them and our appeal to their imagination, we have not measured up to our responsibility and our opportunity in the sight of God."

He also referred to "the religious and spiritual state of our colored friends near us," and said "it has come to pass that the great majority of the religious leaders of these colored neighbors of ours cannot lead their people." "It may be communism, as many predict; it may be Catholicism, as I myself can vision from the present trends;

it may be a scoffing at all the same the gratification of ambition, but we shall regret the day when the Baptist cause has lost its influence upon our colored neighbors. May a greatly better trained group of ministers and leaders come to replace the ignorant, prejudiced near leaders who have lost the most of their influence among these people."

Mr. Allen also deplored the low per capita rate of giving to the church's causes, particularly the cooperative program and the orphanage. "The call comes to us all to become filled with inspiration and spirit," he said.

Dr. Bagby preached from the text, "Are ye not behaving like ordinary men?" from 1 Corinthians 3:3. "We have failed greatly in organized religion," he said, "there have been disappointments, discouragements; our impact on the world has been feeble." Citing the faults and failures of organized religion, he declared "it is not a destructive criticism I am bringing you, but a constructive longing that has shaped my thoughts." He said there has been too much professing and too little practice; too much preparation and too little performance; the idea of prevention has supplemented the idea of promotion; there is too much propaganda and too little propagation.

With the love and Grace of God and the Spiritual leadership under Dr. Gardner our church membership continued to increase and at the close of his ministry in 1953 membership of the church was 1264, Sunday School enrollment was 1306 and W. M. U. enrollment was 514.

During the thirteen and one-half years of Dr. Gardner's ministry, the total gifts for others amounted to \$156,431; current expenses, \$294,795, or a total of \$451,226. Dr. Gardner was an able and Scholarly Christian Minister, much loved by his congregation. His ability was widely known, being selected by the Southern Baptist Convention along with a small group of ministers for a preaching mission to Japan in 1951. The experiences gained on this mission inspired him to write his book "Journey to Japan".

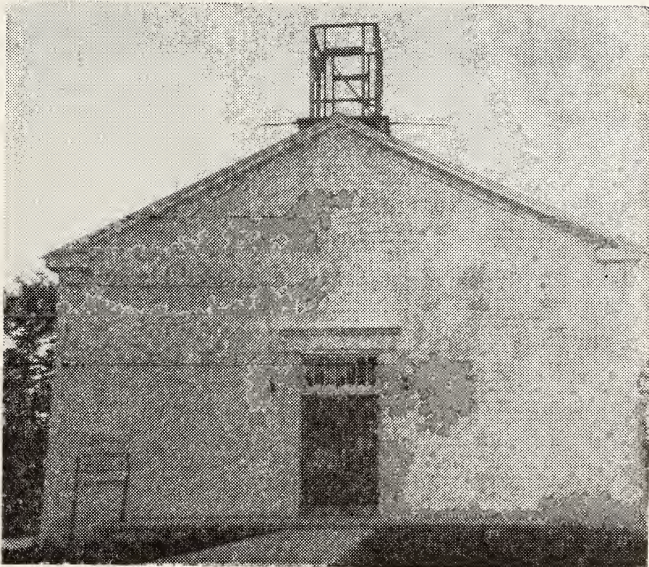
The church's first full-time Assistant Pastor was secured under the pastorate of Dr. Gardner—namely, Maurice W. Grissom. Upon Dr. Gardner's leaving in December 1952, Brother Grissom filled the pulpit until August 1953, when he left to pursue further education in the ministry.

The church was fortunate in having Rev. Frank Fitzgerald of Louisville, Ky. as Interim Pastor from Aug. 1953 until Nov. 20, 1953.

Dr. W. W. Leathers, Jr., our present pastor, was called and began his pastorate November 20, 1953 and with his strong leadership



DR. WILLIAM W. LEATHERS, Jr.
1953 -



RALEIGH ROAD BAPTIST MISSION

has led us in great strides forward in the advancement of our church. The congregation has rallied behind Dr. Leathers' leadership in many phases of the church development.

Dr. William W. Leathers, Jr. graduated from Furman University in 1927, Southern Theological Seminary of Louisville, Ky. with a T.H.M. Degree in 1932 and P.H.D. in 1935. Dr. Leathers has had one year of graduate work in the Divinity School of Yale University. His pastorates include eight years at the First Baptist Church Conway, S. C., approximately eleven years at the First Baptist Church, Petersburg, Virginia. Dr. and Mrs. Leathers (the former Louise Thackston) have four children; Susan, William III, Gordon and Elizabeth.

A Mission on the Raleigh Road was organized and for a period of approximately two years met in a community building. Through the efforts of the Mission members in cooperation with our church, land has been purchased and a building has been erected and the Raleigh Road Baptist Chapel was dedicated and began services on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1956.

Following is a notice that appeared in the HENDERSON DAILY DISPATCH regarding the dedication:

RALEIGH ROAD BAPTIST MISSION DEDICATED

"Dedication services will be held at the Raleigh Road Baptist Mission church on Francis Street Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, and a revival meeting will begin Monday evening to run through the week.

Dr. W. W. Leathers, Jr., Pastor of the First Baptist Church, will speak at the dedication services. The Mission is sponsored by the First Baptist Church. The congregation has been meeting in the Service Club Center for a year or more, but now is to occupy the building erected for its use. Special music will be a feature of the dedication service.

Sunday School at 9:45 A. M. will be the first service in the new quarters, followed by preaching at 10:45 A. M. Rev. Bernard H. Cochearn, student in the Southeastern Baptist Seminary at Wake Forest, is the pastor of the church.

The new building has six class rooms for Sunday School use, and the main auditorium seats approximately 200 persons.

The evangelist to conduct the revival is Rev. A. Lincoln Smith, Pastor of Congress Heights Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., a

congregation with 1,300 members. He was formerly superintendent of Missions for the District of Columbia.

Revival services will be held each evening next week through Sunday, April 8. Prayer services will be held each morning during the week at 10:00 o'clock."

Brethern L. G. Frazier and M. B. Garrett have served as Chairmen of the Raleigh Road Mission committee.

The Mission has had two pastors. Both were students at South-eastern Seminary at Wake Forest—The first being Rev. James Singleton, who resigned June 1, 1955 to accept a position with North Atlanta Baptist Church, and the second being Rev. Bernard Cochran, who is presenting services very ably.

PLANS MADE FOR EDUCATION BUILDING

Committees Appointed — Architects Employed

Much interest was evidenced in 1954 toward the erection of a much needed Educational Building and in October of that year the following committees were appointed:

PLANS COMMITTEE

M. B. Garrett, Chairman
Mrs. Marvin Davis
Leon Frazier
Mrs. R. J. Jones
E. C. Morris
C. E. Page, Jr.
Miss Agnes Pegram
F. E. Pinnell
W. D. Wester
Roscoe Wright

M. L. Hight

T. P. Matthews
Mrs. Archie Rozier
Norris Sutton
Mrs. R. F. Thompson

LEGAL COMMITTEE

B. H. Hicks, Chairman
A. W. Gholson
T. P. Gholson
J. C. Kittrell

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

S. H. Watkins, Chairman
C. A. Beckwith
Mrs. M. F. Legg
A. H. Moore
C. E. Greene
J. L. Briley
Glenn Powers
L. E. Turner
Mrs. R. T. Upchurch
Mrs. Sam Young

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

M. L. Wood, Chairman
Mrs. George Davis
B. A. Hartness
Mrs. R. L. Mustian
Vernon Perry
W. H. Phillips
John D. Rose, Jr.
O. K. Tharrington
M. E. Whitmore

PURCHASING COMMITTEE

H. W. Anderson, Chairman
C. H. Cates

FURNISHINGS COMMITTEE

G. W. Knott, Jr., Chairman
Dr. W. W. Boltz
Mrs. W. B. Daniel
Mrs. C. B. Gary

M. F. Legg, Jr.
Mrs. J. F. Mills
Mrs. C. D. Rollins
Archie Rozier

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

J. R. Teague, Chairman
Mrs. R. H. Duke
Dave Fuller
Mrs. M. G. Garrett
L. C. Grady

M. C. Miles
Mrs. W. C. Stainback

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

Mrs. J. C. Gardner Chariman
Mrs. K. L. Burton
Mrs. C. E. Greene
Mrs. Carl Page
Mrs. Noel Tuck
Mrs. Al Wester
Dr. M. W. Wester, Jr.

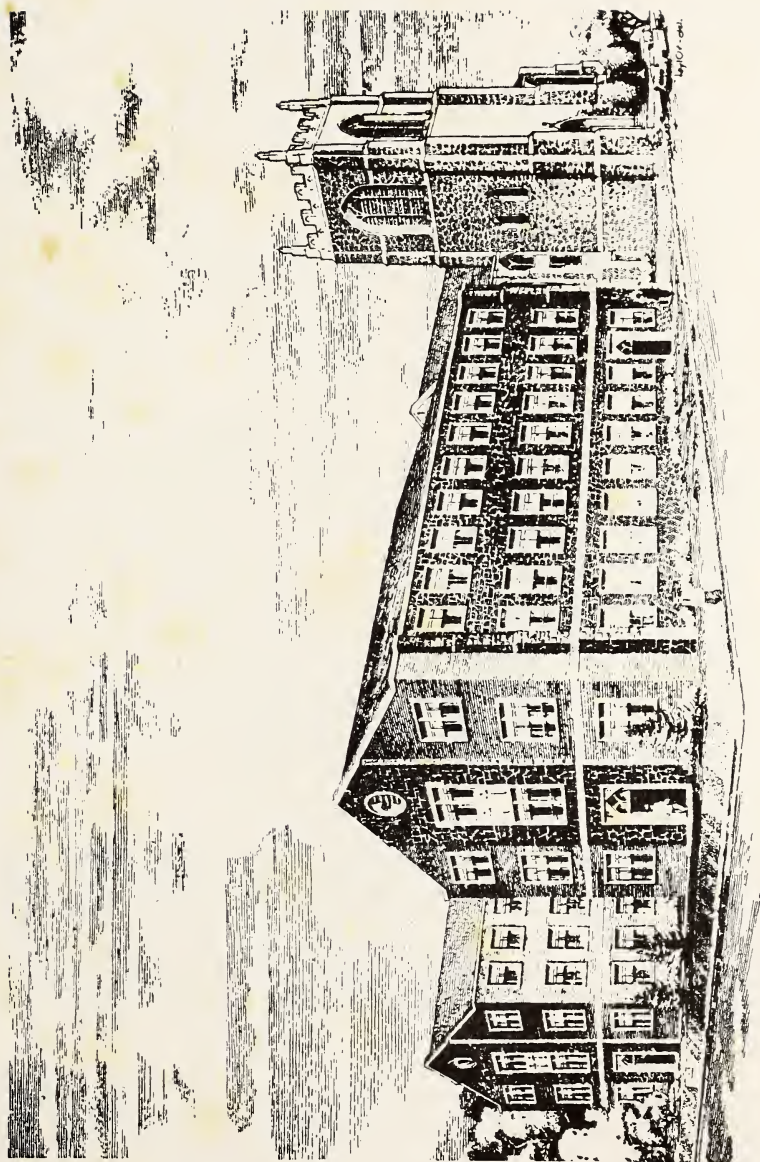
J. C. Gardner, General Building Committee Chairman

TRUSTEES: Dr. W. W. Noel, B. H. Hicks, C. E. Greene, W. H. Phillips

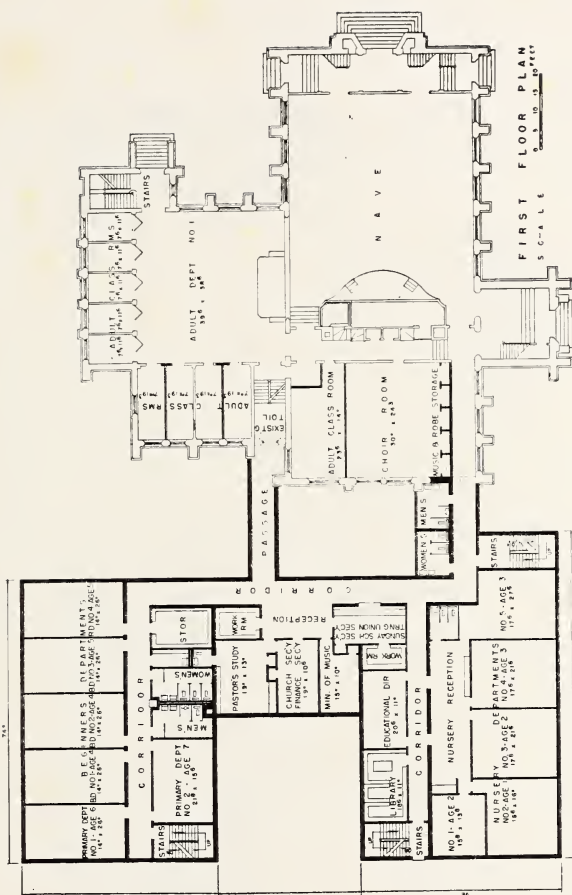
On November 7, 1954, the Board of Deacons passed and recommended to the Church Conference that a special collection for the Educational Building Fund be taken on December 12, 1954, with a goal of \$30,000. Also, on that same day it was passed and recommended that Holloway and Reeves of Raleigh, N. C. be the architects for the Educational Building

After many meetings and much discussion, the following plans were passed on by the church on July 24, 1955:





ARCHITECTS DRAWING OF EDUCATION BUILDING

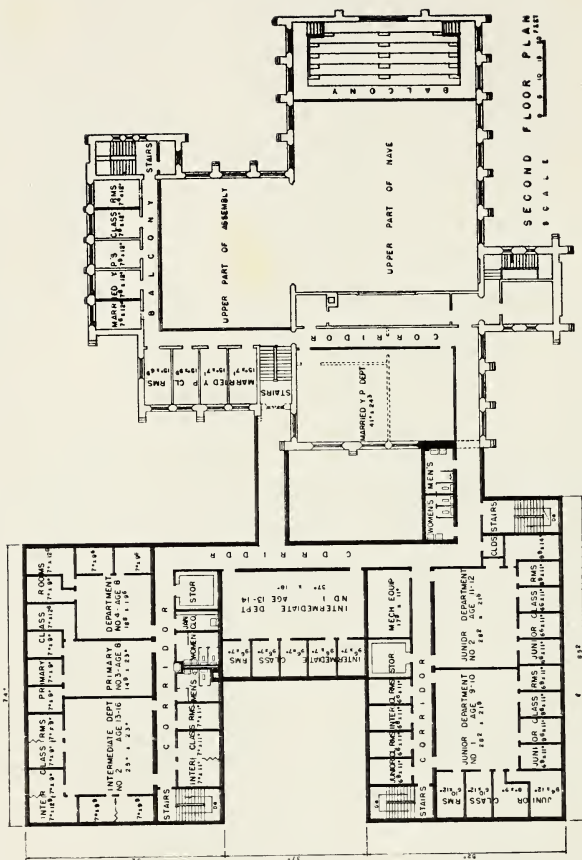


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

The ground floor of the new Education Building will house the Recreation and Dining areas, Kitchen, Scout's Room, Chapel and two Adult Departments. The ground floor of the existing Church will house the Church Parlor, one Young Peoples Department and the Kittrell Class.

The first floor of the new Education Building will house the Administrative Offices, the Nursery Departments, Library, Beginners Departments and Primary Departments. The first floor of the existing Church Building will house an Adult Department and the Choir Room as well as the main Church Auditorium.

The second floor of the new Education Building will house the Primary, Junior and Intermediate Departments. The second floor of the existing Church will house the Married Young Peoples Department. *"The God of Heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we, His servants, will arise and build."* (Nehemiah 2:20)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Capacities of the several departments are calculated as follows:

Nursery	125	Junior	155
Beginner	105	Intermediate	155
Primary	140	Young People	300

Adult 680

The Education Building is approximately 29,800 sq. ft. in area. Plans will be completed by late spring and it is anticipated that the ground breaking exercises can be held sometime in the early summer season.

On July 25, 1955, the following business was transacted by a committee elected by the church is as follows:

"Meeting of Committee to Award Contract for Construction of Education Building.

The committee elected by our church to award the contract for the construction of our proposed Education Building, composed of Messrs. J. C. Gardner, W. W. Noel, A. J. Watkins, M. B. Garrett, S. H. Watkins, Harold Anderson, and B. H. Hicks, met Monday evening, July 25, at 8:00 o'clock in the church parlor. Also present was Mr. J. H. Holloway of the architectural firm, Holloway-Reeves; Dr. W. W. Leathers, Jr. Pastor, and Mr. F. E. Pinnell.

After a thorough discussion of all phases of the matter, the committee decided unanimously to award the contract to the firm of F. N. Thompson, Inc., of Raleigh, North Carolina for \$263,568.00.

The matter of interim financing of the building program until the loan from the New York Life Insurance Company is secured was discussed, and the Committee expressed themselves as being favorable for such financing to be done through the Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Henderson and requested Mr. J. C. Gardner to see to arrangements for such financing.

W. W. Leathers, Jr.
Acting Secretary."

On September 18, 1955, the First Baptist Church, Henderson, N. C. broke ground for its new Education Building. A building fund drive was set for the week of November 13-20. S. H. Watkins, Chairman of both the church finance committee and the building finance committee directed this drive which had a goal of \$100,000. Construction was scheduled to begin in October.

Carrying out the will of the membership of the church pertaining to a Building Fund Drive to begin in the fall of 1955, with a goal of \$100,000 in pledges and cash (50% to be payable by December 31, 1955, and 50% to be payable by December 31, 1956 following are statistics showing the progress of the drive as of December, 1955:

Class	Enrl.	Pledging	Quota	Amt. Pldg.
Kittrell Baraca	231	77	\$ 30,000	\$23,627.25
Shaw Philathea	48	26	6,000	3,723.00
Sue Kelly	31	11	2,500	773.25
Claire Mills	60	32	7,000	4,526.00
Clarence Greene	81	37	15,000	5,052.00
Jr. Philathea	47	25	3,500	1,382.00
Ruth Gardner	42	14	3,500	789.00
Young People	67	40	3,500	2,131.20

Intermediate	81	31	3,500	1,470.50
Junior	130	70	6,000	3,087.65
Primary	98	46	4,000	2,358.60
Beginner	76	41	1,800	981.80
Nursery No. 1	29	50	1,500	254.80
Nursery No. 2	73	50		206.20
Extension	61	18	4,000	553.00
Non-Sunday School	—	26	6,000	2,307.00
General Officers	6	6	2,200	945.00
Total	1,161	550	\$100,000	\$54,148.25

During the 1954-55 associational year, the First Church, Henderson, received 134 new members, 48 of these coming for baptism, 81 by letter, and five by statement. The membership at the beginning of the new associational year was 1,337. During the year contributions for all causes amounted to \$97,207.73. Of this amount \$41,469.85 was for local expenses, \$31,423.61 for the building fund, and \$24,314.27 for missions.

The contract for the new education building was let at a price of \$263,568. Ground breaking exercises were held Sunday, September 18, 1955 at 12:15 P. M. after the regular morning worship service. This marked the largest financial undertaking of the church in its long history but one can sense the confidence and a spirit of cooperation that exists among our members. With this type of feeling and with the help of God this challenge can be accomplished successfully in due time

Below is the PROGRAM of the Ground Breaking Service.

PROGRAM FOR GROUND BREAKING EXERCISES FOR THE
PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL BUILDING FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH, HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA

Sunday, September 18, 12:15 p. m.

"Then answered I them, and said unto them, the God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build."

Nehemiah 2:20

Dr. William W. Leathers, Jr., Pastor, Presiding

Invocation

The Reverend Frank Apple
Pastor, The First Congregational Church

Scripture Reading

Pastor

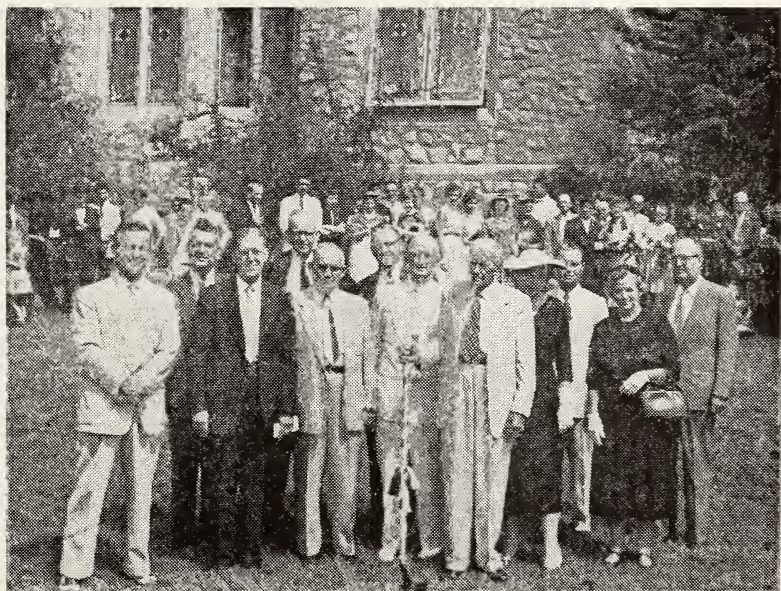
Statement from the General Chairman of the

Building Committee
Greetings from the City of Henderson

Mr. J. C. Gardner
By Mayor H. T. Powell



CHURCH STAFF



GROUND BREAKING EXERCISES

Greetings from the Churches of Henderson By the Rev. W. D. McInnis
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

The Breaking of the Ground—

Mrs. Kate Watkins—Oldest Church Member
 Mr. Thomas P. Stewart—Next Oldest Church Member
 Mr. J. C. Gardner—Gen. Chairman of Building Committee
 Dr. W. W. Noel—Chairman of Board of Deacons
 Mr. C. E. Page, Jr., Sunday School Superintendent
 Mrs. Al B. Wester—President of W. M. U.
 Mr. Clarence E. Greene—Training Union Director
 Mr. Frank E. Pinnell—Chairman of Brotherhood
 Mr. S. H. Watkins—Chairman of Finance Committee
 Dr. William W. Leathers, Jr., Pastor

Prayer for Divine Blessing and Guidance Pastor
 Hymn— "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" Mason
 Benediction The Reverend A. S. Parker
Pastor, First Methodist Church

We cordially welcome our freinds from sister churches to this happy occasion in the life of our church. We sincerely thank you for coming.

For a church to carry on an extensive program of service, it is necessary to have many committees, department heads and workers. Below is the directory of the church for the 1955-56 church year.

These and many others in the present and past, under the leadership of the pastors and church staffs, enable the church to carry on an effective program of training and worship.

Our church staff in addition to Dr. Leathers is:

Miss Sarah Lunsford, Educational Director; Mrs. Robert T. Taylor, Minister of Music; Miss Alice Holiday, Church Secretary; Mrs. E. A. Latta, Financial Secretary and Govan Reavis, Sexton.

CHURCH DIRECTORY — 1955-56

The Nominating Committee which was duly appointed following the July meeting of the Board of Deacons, submits herewith the following slate of Bible School Officers and Church Committees for the year October 1, 1955 to September 30, 1956:

DEACONS

Dr. W. W. Noel, Chairman

T. P. Stewart and E. C. Morris, Deacons Emeritus

H. W. Anderson	1956	Talmadge Hoyle	1957
W. C. Clay, Jr.	1956	Mrs. W. B. Daniel	1957

D. R. Hale	1956	Mrs. R. H. Duke	1957
F. D. Kesler	1956	C. E. Greene	1957
W. W. Noel	1956	A. Thurston Hoyle	1957
J. R. Teague	1956	B. C. Wells	1957
J. C. Gardner	1958	D. T. Fuller	1959
G. W. Knott, Jr.	1958	M. B. Garrett	1959
W. H. Phillips	1958	B. H. Hicks	1959
F. E. Pinnell	1958	A. L. McLemore	1959
V. G. Vaughan	1958	C. E. Page	1959
S. H. Watkins	1958	M. W. Wester, Jr.	1959

Clerk — P. J. Stainback
 Assistant Clerk — Roscoe Orr
 Treasurer — W. H. Phillips

Librarians — Mrs. Marvin Davis and
 Church Secretary

COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

S. H. Watkins, Chm., Board of Deacons, M. G. Davis, B. A. Hartness, L. E. Turner, A. H. Moore, C. P. Tanner, A. V. Perry, A. J. Watkins, J. G. Brafford, W. B. Daniel, W. H. Phillips, Leon G. Frazier.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. J. C. Gardner, Chm., Mrs. C. E. Greene, Dr. W. W. Noel, L. E. Turner, Thurston Hoyle, Mrs. K. L. Burton.

CHURCH GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mrs. B. A. Hartness, Chm., W. R. Turner, Mrs. R. H. Duke, Mrs. R. J. Jones, Leon G. Frazier, M. F. Legg, Jr., Mrs. A. H. Moore.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Mrs. S. D. Young, Chm., Mrs. Dolores Frazier, Mrs. A. J. Davis, Mrs. M. F. Legg, Mrs. J. F. Mills, B. A. Hartness, Mrs. W. B. Parham.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Mrs. R. T. Upchurch, Chm., Mrs. Charles Gary, Mrs. M. F. Legg, Mrs. K. L. Burton, Mrs. C. D. Rollins, Mrs. R. J. Jones, Mrs. A. H. Parham.

PULPIT COMMITTEE

B. H. Hicks, Chm., F. E. Pinnell, Mrs. R. L. Mustian, J. C. Gardner, Mrs. J. C. Stabler.

LORD'S SUPPER COMMITTEE

Mrs. J. C. Hicks, Mrs. A. R. Perry, Mrs. O. K. Tharrington.

BAPTISM COMMITTEE

Marvin Davis, Chm., E. C. Morris, T. P. Matthews, Mrs. L. M. Fogleman, Mrs. C. E. Page, Sr.

HYMN BOOK COMMITTEE

Mrs. G. W. Knott, Sr., Chm., Mrs. W. H. Wester, Dr. M. W. Wester, Jr., Mrs. A. B. Hartness, Mrs. J. G. Faulkner, Mrs. C. H. Cates.

FELLOWSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

Dr. W. W. Leathers, Chm., Miss Garnett Myers, Wayne Wood-
lief, Mrs. B. G. Allen, Miss Carrie Burton.

RADIO, VISUAL AID, AND CHURCH LIGHTING

Talmadge Hoyle, Chm., Sterling Fowler, T. L. Dale, Jr., Norris
Sutton, Mrs. Marvin Davis, Preston Powers, Billy Noel.

BOY SCOUT COMMITTEE

B. H. Hicks, Chm., B. P. Terrell, Arnom Harris, J. Carl Page,
A. J. Watkins, Carvie Cates, Vernon Perry.

GIRL SCOUT COMMITTEE

Mrs. J. C. Gardner, Chm., Mrs. Haywood Phillips, Mrs. R. G. Ball,
Mrs. Hillman D. Bass, Miss Neita Allen, Mrs. A. H. Moore, Mrs. W. W.
Noel.

CHURCH AUDITORS

W. G. Royster and Burnett Kelley.

CHURCH NURSERY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Leonard Eason, Chm., Mrs. Wallace Edwards, Mrs. Sidney
Grissom.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Educational Director, Chm., Mrs. J. F. Shuman, Vice-Chm., W.
M. U. Youth Director; Brotherhood Youth Director; Sunday School
Superintendents of Young People, Intermediates, and Juniors; B. T.
U. Superintendents of Young People, Intermediates, and Juniors; Mem-
ber of Board of Deacons (Thurston Hoyle); Mrs. W. W. Noel, Mrs. A.
H. Harris, B. P. Terrell.

CHAIRMEN OF USHERS FOR
MORNING SERVICES

1st Quarter — E. W. Pegram, Sr.
2nd Quarter — A. J. Finch
3rd Quarter — Norris Sutton
4th Quarter — E. G. Shaw

CHAIRMEN OF USHERS FOR
EVENING SERVICES

1st Quarter — Laden Greenway
2nd Quarter — W. H. Glover, Jr.
3rd Quarter — Glenn Powers
4th Quarter — Charles Lee Parhan

BIBLE SCHOOL OFFICERS

General Superintendent - C. E. Page, Jr.
Associate Superintendent - W. D. Wester
Associate Superintendent of

Teacher Training - Mrs. J. C. Stabler
General Secretary - B. C. Wells
Assistant Secretary - Ashby D. Evans
Assistant Secretary - J. E. Hudson
Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Mildred C. Jackson

DEPARTMENTS

CRADLE ROLL

Mrs. D. T. Fuller, Supt., Mrs. C. E. Page, Sr., Assoc. Supt., Visitors, Mrs. W. H. Phillips, Mrs. Mary Blalock, Mrs. Roscoe Orr, Mrs. Roger Spruill, Mrs. J. B. Gee, Mrs. P. J. Stainback, Jr., Mrs. E. N. Edwards, Mrs. Emmett Raynor, Mrs. J. A. Van Dyke, Mrs. B. C. Wells, Mrs. Durwood Turner.

NURSERY

Mrs. G. H. Davis, Supt., Mrs. E. N. Edwards, Assoc. Supt., Mrs. Jesse Davis, Sec., Miss Ann Irvin, Sec.; Teachers: Mrs. Renn Hale, Mrs. Jean Inscoc, Mrs. Sue Eaves, Mrs. Rachel Poythress, Mrs. William Royster, Mrs. T. C. Taylor, Miss Betty Taylor, Mrs. Jimmy Barnett, Mrs. Walter Rogers, Mrs. Eka Rose Blalock, Mrs. Emmett Raynor, Mrs. Roger Spruill.

BEGINNER

Mrs. C. E. Page, Jr., Supt., Mrs. Vernon Perry, Asst. Supt., Mrs. R. L. Mustian, Assoc. Supt., Mrs. R. W. Boyd, Sec., Mrs. J. E. Norman, Assistant Sec., Mrs. F. D. Kesler, Pianist. Teachers: Miss Louise Nelson, Miss Neita Allen, Mrs. Marvin Edwards, Mrs. William Adcock, Mrs. W. H. Petty.

PRIMARY

Mrs. L. T. Harris, Supt., Mrs. J. C. Gardner, Assoc. Supt., Mrs. A. C. Sims, Sec., Mrs. M. F. Legg, Pianist. Teachers: Mrs. C. C. Shaw, Mrs. Russell Smith, Mrs. J. G. Brafford, Mrs. Alma Pirie, Mrs. Spurgeon Ayscue, Miss Garnett Myers, Mrs. J. G. Tolson, Mrs. C. E. Greene, Mrs. Sam Young.

JUNIOR

Miss Agnes Pegram, Supt., Mrs. M. B. Garrett, Assoc. Supt., Mrs. Roscoe Orr, Sec., Mrs. W. W. Parker, Sr., Pianist. Teachers: Mrs. Laden Greenway, Mrs. W. E. Walker, Mrs. J. J. S. Callaway, Mrs. R. H. Duke, Mrs. Paul Stainback, Mrs. Arnom Harris, Paul Stainback, Preston Powers, A. L. McLemore, E. W. Pegram, Sr., Mrs. Marvin Davis, Mrs. V. G. Vaughan, Mrs. Guy Woodlief. Substitute teachers: Miss Betsy Williams, Miss Willie Gee, Mrs. Lillie K. Young, Leslie McLemore, Mrs. Roscoe Orr, J. G. Brafford.

INTERMEDIATE

B. P. Terrell, Supt., Mrs. J. B. Stabler, Assoc. Supt., Mrs. Thomas Peck, Sec., Mrs. William Frazier, Pianist. Teachers: Mrs. William Frazier, Mrs. B. H. Hicks, Mrs. J. C. Hicks, Mrs. Velma E. Daniel, M. C. Miles, Thurston Hoyle, Vernon Perry, V. G. Vaughan.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Mrs. R. F. Neal, Supt., Dr. W. W. Noel, Assoc. Supt., Don Casper, Asso. Supt., W. B. Frazier, Sec.; Teachers: D. F. Fuller, E. N. Edwards, Mrs. H. W. Glover, Jr., Mrs. W. H. Phillips, Jim Hinkle, Mrs. Allen Minetree. Substitute teachers: Mrs. W. H. Alexander, Mrs. W. A. Watson.

ADULT 1

W. H. Neahtery, Supt., James M. Fogleman, Assoc. Supt., W. H.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Alexander, Sec., Mrs. Nelson Rivers, Pianist. Teachers: C. E. Greene, Mrs. E. A. Latta, Mrs. R. J. Jones.

ADULT 2

J. R. Teague, Supt., E. P. Bazemore, Assoc. Supt., Mrs. J. E. Coffey, Sec., Mrs. E. W. Pegram, Sr., Pianist. Teachers: Mrs. M. C. Miles, Mrs. W. B. Daniel, S. N. Powell.

KITTRELL BARACA CLASS

T. C. Taylor, Pres., Archie Rozier, Vice-Pres., Roger Spruill, Sec. Wayne Woodlief, Asst. Sec.; Teacher: F. D. Kesler. Assistant teachers: W. C. Clay, F. E. Pinnell, E. C. Morris.

EXTENSION

Mrs. B. H. Hicks, Supt., Mrs. J. G. Brafford, Assoc. Supt., Mrs. Roscoe Orr, Sec.; Extension Visitors: Mrs. Louis Horner, Mrs. Frank Orr, Miss Annei LeMay, Mrs. L. E. Turner, Mrs. J. D. Mayo, Sr., Mrs. W. E. Walker, Mrs. J. L. Mabry, Mrs. L. G. Conn, Mrs. A. B. Perry, Mrs. O. K. Tharrington, Mrs. Sally Upchurch, Mrs. H. A. Dennis, Mrs. M. L. Hight, Mrs. Jesse Moss, Mrs. Jack Cannady, Mrs. J. L. Briley, Mrs. E. C. Mitchiner, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Pegram, Sr.

BROTHERHOOD

President — F. E. Pinnell Secretary — Wallace Kelley
Vice-President — J. L. Briley Assistant Secretary — John Shuman
Chorister — George Harrison

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Benevolence — Dave T. Fuller Stewardship — Archie W. Rozier
Education — M. B. Garrett Evangelistic — C. E. Greene
Activities — J. L. Briley Worship — V. G. Vaughan
Program — Coy A. Beckwith Boys Work — O. H. Gwynn
Membership — Wayne Woodlief

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION

Director — C. E. Green Associate Director — W. C. Clay, Jr.
Departments: Secretary — V. G. Vaughan

Beginners — Primary: Mrs. B. A. Hartness
Mrs. Emmett Raynor

Intermediate 1: Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Rivers

Intermediate 2: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Neathery

Adult — E. N. Edwards, President

Junior 1: Mrs. M. B. Garrett

Junior 2: Mrs. A. H. Harris

Young People: Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Wester, Jr. (Sponsors)

Ushers for Morning Service

Ushers For Evening Service

First Quarter

First Quarter

E. W. Pegram, Sr., Chairman

Laden Greenway, Chairman

A. L. McLemore

Nelson Rivers

L. E. Kearney

Al Van Dyke

C. A. Shands

Nelson Grissom

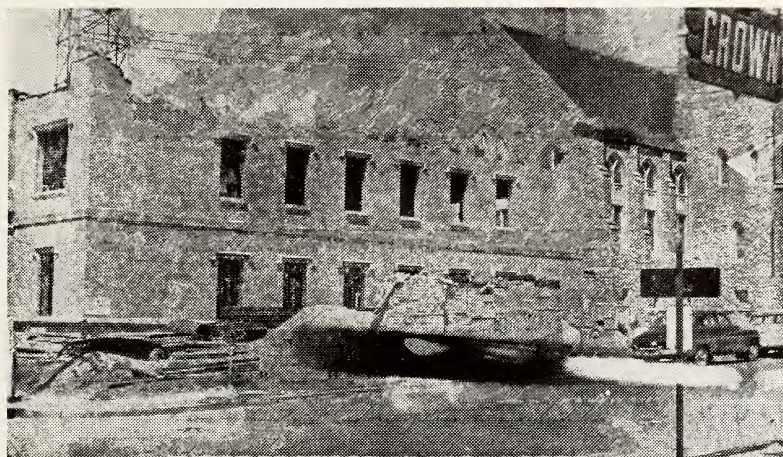
Jim Hinkle

Harry Walker

John Shuman

R. L. Andrews

Roscoe Orr



EDUCATIONAL BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Chairman of Ushers for the second, third, and fourth quarters will submit a list of ushers for their quarter to the church office the month preceeding their respective quarter.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee: W. H. Neathery, H. W. Anderson, Mrs. C. E. Green, Miss Agnes Pegram, Mrs. Marvin Davis, Mrs. R. F. Neal.

Another important matter of business which faced the church recently was whether or not the church should buy the adjoining property on the west side of our present lot. For sometime this property, better known as the old Joyner property, has been vacant and up for sale. This property was thought by many to be of great potential value to our church and October 5, 1955 the Board of Deacons after some dsicussion passed and recommended to the church that \$16,000 be offered to the proper authorities for this property provided it could be agreeably financed. It was not until Dec. 7, 1955 that the Board of Deacons recommended to the church that this property be definitely purchased. There were many opinions as to what the dwelling would be used for and it was finally decided that it would be for recreational use and on May 9, 1956, \$500 was voted to be used for payment of renovating the building for that purpose.

Progress in construction of the educational building went according to plan and a Cornerstone-laying Service was held Sunday, May 27, 1956. The following account of the service appeared in the

HENDERSON DAILY DISPATCH:

FIRST BAPTIST LAY CORNERSTONE

Exercises Held Sunday At Noon

Cornerstone-laying exercises for the new educational building were held at the First Baptist church at noon Sunday following the morning worship service. Numerous items pertaining to the church, its records and its history, were placed into the cornerstone by representatives of different church groups.

Dr. W. W. Leathers, Jr., the pastor, presided, and the invocation was by Rev. Bernard Cochrane, pastor of the Raleigh Road Baptist chapel. Dr. Leathers read the Scripture, after which mementoes were deposited in the receptacle. The pastor pronounced the benediction.

Included in the documents placed were minutes of the Tar River Baptist Association, by Mrs. Al. B. Wester, president of the Woman's Missionary Union; resolutions and motions of conferences pertaining to erection of the educational building, by P. J. Stainback, clerk; a brochure of plans and specifications for the building by C.E. Page, Jr., Sunday School superintendent; a roster of church members by C. E. Greene, director, and W. C. Clay, assistant director, of the B. T. U.; copy of the budget and latest financial statement by S. H. Watkins, financial chairman; history of the church, by Dr. W. W. Noel, chairman of the board of deacons; Church bulletin for Sunday, May 27, a Christmas bulletin, Easter bulletin and a directory of the church, by F. E. Pinnell, president of the Brotherhood; a list of the building committee, ground-breaking program and picture, details of awarding of the contract, by J. C. Gardner, general chairman of the building committee.

The members hope to occupy the new addition by Nov., 1956.



Following are financial reports of the Educational Building Fund as submitted by Mrs. E. A. Latta, Financial Secretary:

EDUCATIONAL BUILDING FUND

(As of November 1, 1954)

	\$ 63,653.87
Cash collected October	37.10
	<hr/>
Total cash collected to date	\$ 63,690.97

Deposited in U. S. Government Bonds (Maturity Value \$82,500.00)	63,500.00
Balance in Bank November 1, 1954	\$ 190.97

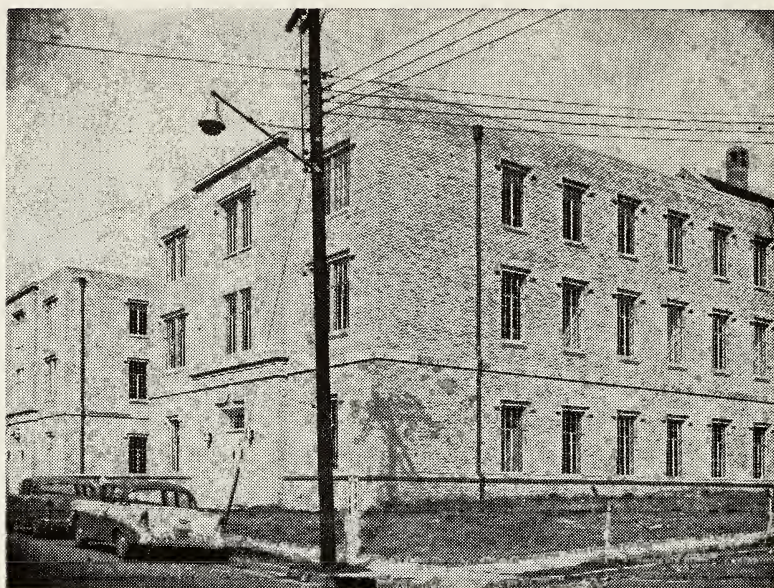
EDUCATIONAL BUILDING FUND
(As of May 1, 1956)

Total collections to March 31, 1956	\$128,864.89
Collections in April:	
Contributions to Building Fund	\$1,671.58
Interest on Series J Bonds cashed in	1,202.00
Building Expansion Bond cashed in	7,030.00
Interest on Building Expansion bond cashed in	1,371.00
Total collections in April	11,274.58
Total collections to date	\$140,139.47
Borrowed from Citizens Bank & Trust Co. (See last stmt.)	19,500.00
Total Debit to Building Fund	\$159,639.47
Less:	
Total Disbursements shown on last report	\$116,035.53
Citizens Bank & Trust Co. Payment Loan	19,500.00
Citizens Bank & Trust Co. Interest on Loan	51.46
F. N. Thompson Contractors, Payment on Bldg.	20,038.37
Total Disbursements	155,625.36
Balance in Bank, May 1, 1956	\$ 4,014.11

The church has passed that this Education Building be dedicated during the Centennial Service on December 9, 1956, when the building is ready for use.

Plans are being carried out in making arrangements for this most important occasion in the history of this church. A Centennial Committee was appointed and is composed of the following: Messrs. F. E. Pinnell, Chairman, C. E. Greene, E. C. Morris, J. R. Teague, Mesdames R. J. Jones and M. F. Legg, Sr.

In order to carry out a plan for paying for the Education Build-



EDUCATIONAL BUILDING AFTER COMPLETION

ing and to provide adequate facilities for its maximum use, along with the other financial responsibilities of the church, the following Budget was adopted by the church for the year beginning October 1, 1956, through September 30, 1957.

SALARIES

Pastor	\$ 6,600.00
Pastor's Allowance	900.00
Church Secretary	2,100.00
Financial Secretary	2,100.00
Organist	2,400.00
Janitor	1,680.00
Extra cleaning help for Ed. Bldg. & Joyner	150.00
Educational Director	3,300.00
Church Nursery	156.00
	<hr/>
	\$19,386.00

SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

Additional Equipment	\$ 1,000.00
Music for 4 choirs.	150.00

Special Bulletins, including \$60.00 for musical programs	110.00
Decorations	50.00
Stationary & Postage	1,600.00
Sunday School Supplies (Bapt. Book Store)	450.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,360.00

EDUCATION

Sunday School Literature	\$ 1,500.00
Ridgecrest	375.00
Biblical Recorder	600.00
Sunday School Study Course	150.00
Daily Vacation Bible School	300.00
Sunday School Department Incidentals from Ext. Dept. through Young People's Dept.	686.00
Sunday School Adult Department Program	2,180.00
Baptist Training Union, including \$250.00 for field expense work	750.00
School of Missions	150.00
Lectures on Christian Homes	125.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,816.00
FELLOWSHIP FUND	\$ 200.00

SUNDRY

Recreation Committee	\$ 480.00
Miscellaneous	2,450.00
Grounds Committee, Church & Parsonage	400.00
Church Library	25.00
Maintenance	3,300.00
Pastor's Convention Expense	225.00
Church Brotherhood	300.00
Workers' Council Supper	100.00
W. M. S. Program	603.00
Special Speakers	100.00
Pulpit Supply	175.00
Substitute Organ Fund	60.00
Centennial Expenses (up to \$500.00)	500.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 8,718.00

FIXED CHARGES

Insurance	\$ 1,680.00
Radio, Newspaper, and Visual Aid	150.00

Retirement and Social Security	300.00
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	\$ 2,130.00
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UTILITIES

Fuel	\$ 1,800.00
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Water, Lights, Telephone	1,200.00
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	\$ 3,000.00
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SCOUTING

Boy Scouts, Including Explorer Post	\$ 150.00
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Girl Troop	75.00
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Cub Scouts	100.00
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	\$ 325.00
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CURRENT	60%	\$43,935.00
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INTEREST & PRINCIPAL	12%	
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Retiring Ed. Bldg. Debt. \$13,138.80 less	
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\$4,351.80 estimated amount in interest fund	8,787.00
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CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAM	28%
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A. For State Objects	\$20,503.00
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1. State Missions, Christian Education	
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2. Tar River Association Missionary and Minutes (\$770.00)	
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3. Mills Home (\$1,830.00)	
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B. For Southwide Objects	
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1. Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Relief & Annuity Board, Raleigh Road Mission (\$1,500.00)	
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2. American Bible Society (\$150.00)	
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3. Mission Project by W. M. S.	
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4. Wake Forest Enlargement Fund (\$2,005.40)	
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5. Home of Aged (\$225.00)	
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6. Relief and Annuity (\$150.00)	
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7. S. L. Morgan Fund (\$315.00)	
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8. Southeastern Theological Seminary (\$600.00)	
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TOTAL	100%	\$73,225.00
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B U D G E T C O M M I T T E E

S. H. Watkins, Chairman

W. H. Phillips

Mrs. W. B. Daniel

F. E. Pinnell

Mrs. E. A. Latta

C. E. Page, Jr.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND TRAINING UNION MAKE PLANS FOR EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

During September 1956 both the Sunday School and Training Union held enlargement campaigns preparatory to entering our new educational building. During the week of Sept. 10-13, Training Union workers gathered each evening for a study of "The Training Union Manual", taught by our Pastor Dr. Leathers. There was unusually good attendance of our workers. Plans were also made for organizing the training work on a fully department basis, beginning with the Nursery and running through the adults. Directors have been secured for all the eight departments, and at least one unit organization in each department is operating.

Mrs. Arnom Harris, Training Union Director and Miss Sarah Lunsford, our Educational Director, and the departmental directors worked hard and long lining up workers for their organizations, and as a result, on the first Sunday in the new year, October 7, there were 196 persons present for Training Union.

The Sunday School workers held an enlargement campaign during the week of Sept. 23-30, under the leadership of Dr. Denton Coker of Southeastern Seminary, assisted by six of our state-approved workers. As a result, present plans call for us to have five nurseries, four Beginner, four primary, two Junior, two Intermediate, two Young People and four Adult Departments. These in addition to the Cradle Roll and Nursery Departments will make twenty-five departments instead of the present ten. It is estimated that the church will need approximately 210 Sunday School officers and teachers.

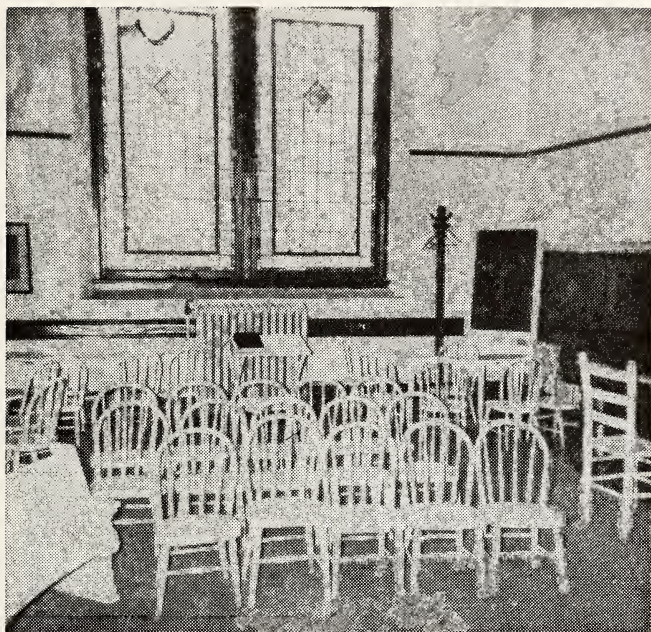
Our church's Associational Letter for the 1955-56 year revealed that total expenditures for all purposes for our church amounted to \$254,732.90 (actual receipts were \$142,300.00). Of this amount, \$24,003.00 was given to all phases of Missionary work, \$42,463 went for current operating expenses and \$118,266.90 went toward the construction of our new educational building and the purchase of the Joyner property. 118 new members were received, 53 by Baptism, 65 by letter. Our present church membership is 1,387 (1,291 resident, 96 non resident). Our Sunday School enrollment is 1,208, Training Union enrollment 340, W. M. U. enrollment 396 and Brotherhood enrollment 50. There are 403 tithers in the church. The total value of all church-owned buildings is \$731,488.00.

The membership of our church adopted the Unified Budget Plan in 1954, thus we have just completed our second year under this system. As the quotas assigned to classes and departments listed below

indicate, the plan has been very successful.

NAME	QUOTA	QUOTA	QUOTA
	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Kittrell Baraca	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 21,000.00
Shaw Philathea	5,000.00	6,000.00	5,000.00
Claire Mills	5,000.00	6,000.00	7,000.00
Sue Kelly	1,750.00	2,000.00	2,200.00
Clarence Greene	5,500.00	7,000.00	8,500.00
Junior Philathea	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,500.00
Ruth Gardner	1,250.00	1,800.00	2,200.00
Young People's Dept.	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
Intermediates	1,750.00	2,500.00	2,300.00
Juniors	2,500.00	3,000.00	4,000.00
Primary	1,800.00	1,800.00	2,500.00
Beginners	1,250.00	1,500.00	1,600.00
Nursery	1,000.00	1,100.00	1,200.00
Extension	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,500.00
Not enrolled in S. S.	7,700.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
General Officers	500.00	800.00	1,500.00
e1o			
TOTALS	\$55,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$74,000.00

It can be truly said that all phases of the church activity have shown steady progress with emphasis on study courses, Sunday School Workers' Council, B. T. U. advancement and soul-willing. Even greater growth is anticipated in the future. There is no doubt God's love and grace have been in abundance with the members of this congregation and may we not neglect to give praise and thanksgiving.



BEGINNERS DEPARTMENT

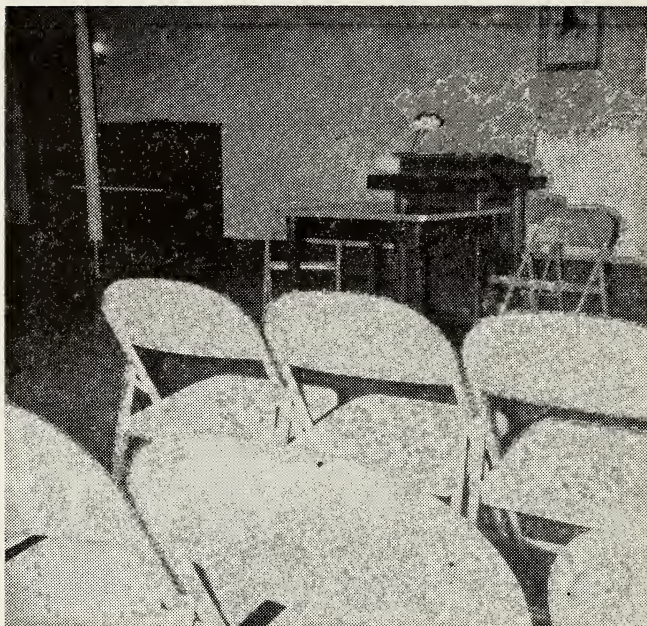
CHAPTER IV

REPORT OF ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
AND CHURCH ORGANIZATION

A church's Sunday School plays a most important part in the service and growth of the church. The Sunday School is organized to take the child in the Cradle Roll and nurture him in a spiritual atmosphere throughout adulthood.

The First Baptist Church of Henderson has been fortunate to have had loyal and devoted men and women to assume the teaching opportunities in our Sunday School and other places of leadership in the various activities of our church.

As to the exact time our church inaugurated the Sabbath School, the writer has been unable to find. However, it was stated elsewhere in this publication that in August 17, 1858, when Henderson First Baptist Church was admitted to the Tar River Association, the fact was noted of its progressiveness in that it had a Sunday School. Yet in



KITTRELL'S BARACA CLASS

the minutes of the church conference held in 1870, it was noted that two members were appointed a committee to consider a Sabbath School and their report was unfavorable. It could easily be that a Sunday School was operated in 1858 but elapsed for a few years and reorganized later.

At present there are many departments and classes and our Sunday School has expanded from an enrollment of 55 in 1896 to an enrollment of 1208 in 1956. A few of the older classes were asked to write a history of their classes for this publication and the response was excellent.

KITTRELL BARACA CLASS

It is reported that L. W. Alderman, brother of J. T. Alderman, organized the Baraca Class in 1901. At first, the class was taught by J. T. Alderman and Judge T.M.Pittman. Later, J. T. Alderman retired from teaching and the teaching duties were alternated between T. M. Pittman and J. C. Kittrell. Still later, J. C. Kittrell became full-time teacher and is said to have taught the class for a period of fifty



SHAW PHILATHEA CLASS

years in a most scholarly and devoted manner until his death in December, 1954.

J. R. Carter, our oldest and very active member, is said to be the only living charter member. Some of the other older members of the class are: J. H. Murrell, S. O. Spruill, C. E. Page, Sr., John Milne, C. M. Cooper, C. C. Shaw, W. B. Daniel, Jr., E. G. Shaw, and J. R. Teague.

Complete records of the class officers and activities have been kept intermittently but the contributions from the class both in finances and spiritual fellowship have been continuously manifested over the long period of years of its history.

Present class officers are: T. C. Taylor, President; Archie Rozier, Vice-President; Roger D. Spruill, Secretary; Don Kesler, Teacher; W. C. Clay, Jr., F. E. Pinnell, and E. C. Morris, Assistant Teachers.

HISTORY OF SHAW PHILATHEA CLASS

The Shaw Philathea Class of the First Baptist Church, Henderson, North Carolina, has the distinction of being the first Philathea Class organized in the South. It was organized in 1902, about a year

after the Kittrell Baraca Class had been started.

Both classes were the result of a suggestion of Mr. L. W. Alderman of Raleigh, N. C., who had attended a Baraca Convention in New York by invitation from Marshall A. Hudson. He, with Miss Henrietta Heron as general counselor, had started the Baraca-Philathea movement in 1890; and Mr. Alderman came back home full of enthusiasm for the movement.

He had already organized the Simms Baraca Class of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Raleigh, it being the first in the South; and the Kittrell Baraca Class was the second.

There were ten charter members in the Shaw Philathea Class, namely: Nettie Elmore, Willie Phelps, Mattie and Mamie Dean, Bertie Clifton, Eva Spruill, Lell Horner, Rowena and Neita Watson, and Mrs. R. L. Wester. Three of them are still honorary members; and their names are now: Mrs. Lee Horner of Oxford, Mrs. Harry Bunn of Norfolk, Virginia, and Mrs. Neita Allen of Henderson.

Captain W. D. Shaw had the distinction of being the first teacher and taught from 1902-1904. Mrs. Nettie Elmore Wearn was the first president.

The class assembled in a small room in the old Baptist Church where the building of the Henderson High School now stands. This room had been used by Dr. J. D. Hufham as the pastor's study. The class soon outgrew it and later occupied one-half of the old auditorium with the Baraca Class on the other side divided only by a dark red curtain. This curtain served many purposes and was known as the "community curtain." Mr. S. L. Morgan was the beloved pastor at this time.

On August 29, 1904, Mrs. J. T. Alderman was elected teacher of the class. Her little son, John, sat on the floor during the lesson period; and she often remarked that he was the same age as the class.

In those days, Mrs. Alderman rejoiced when there were sixteen members present; but with her great leadership the class grew by leaps and bounds. It soon became necessary to organize a junior class.

Mr. James I. Miller was elected teacher of this class, and they met in the small original Shaw Philathea classroom. Later Mr. Miller was elected General Superintendent of the Sunday School, leaving the class, orphans, to be adopted by the Shaw Philatheas. During this period, Mrs. E. F. Shaw, formerly Miss Julia Cooper, was either class President or Secretary for thirteen years.

About this time, the Sunday School Board suggested that the

class be divided into three smaller classes. The members were opposed to the idea, feeling that the class spirit and enthusiams were largely due to its size. It was also at about this period of development that the class decided to honor their first teacher by taking the name Shaw Philathea Class.

For twenty-three years Mrs. Alderman, a devout Christian, was the gifted and greatly beloved teacher of the class. In 1926 the Sunday School decided to draft her to help in reorganizing other classes, and Mrs. Rosa Jones was elected teacher of the Shaw Philatheas and taught until 1928. Mrs. Alderman was then assistant teacher.

At this time there was much enthusiam among the members of the church for a new church building; and the Shaw Philatheas were very eager for a new, nicely furnished classroom. They began to make plans for this.

In the class were housewives, fine business women, and school teachers; and they all began using their talents to make money for the class. They sold polish for furniture and silver and baked lots of good things to eat for sale. Soon they had placed in the bank enough money to furnish their new room and contributed \$1,500 to the church building fund.

They practiced their slogan, "We do things," for they believed the scripture, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"; and they had the spirit to "Go Forward" in service to God.

For many years the class sponsored a Home Department now called the "Home Extension Department." Many of these had been former members of the class, and on a number of occasions they were entertained with parties or banquets by the Shaw Philathea Class.

For several years Mrs. Franklin Mills was Superintendent of the Home Department assisted by Mrs. W. H. Kimball, Mrs. I. R. Tippet, and others, too numerous to mention. At present Mrs. B. H. Hicks is Superintendent and Mrs. Frank Orr is Secretary.

When the new church, now occupied, was completed, the class contributed the communion set consisting of the two chairs and table and in 1940 gave the desk and desk chairs used in the Ladies' Parlor.

These same busy women sold vanilla and lemon extracts until they made enough money to erect the bulletin board on the lawn in front of the church, to donate the first silver collection plates, and to contribute \$50 toward the purchase of new song books for the church.

Soon after occupying the new church, the beloved pastor, Dr. Hugh A. Ellis, conducted a series of teacher training classes, such as

we are now having, to improve the methods in Sunday School and to train new teachers. The class through the years has considered it an honor and a privilege to furnish many teachers and officers for the Sunday School. Dr. Ellis and his good wife gave endless assistance, loyalty, and love to the Shaw Philathea Class.

In 1928 Mrs. Franklin Mills was elected teacher of the class and was installed by Mrs. Alderman. Mrs. Mills is truly a gifted teacher and was loved and admired by the class members as she served faithfully for twenty-five years as regular teacher, with Mrs. E. N. Gardner and Mrs. W. K. Phillips assistants. Mrs. Mills is still an assistant.

She has also been very active in the state Baraca-Philathea work having served as State President. Her efforts have meant much to the organization both locally and throughout the district and state.

On May 13, 1937, the class celebrated its thirty-fifth anniversary with a homecoming of the former members. The Home Department and Sunday School classes from other churches were invited, and over 200 people were present for the occasion. The history of the class up to this time was read by Mrs. J. T. Alderman. Mrs. R. F. Thompson presided, as President of the class; and she read a telegram of congratulation from the first president, Mrs. Wearn, who was unable to be present.

In this most unique celebration "Roses of Remembrance" were presented by Mrs. W. K. Phillips and Miss Hallie Frank Mills, now Mrs. Elmus Pegram, depicting the spirit of Philathea through the passing years. As the beautiful bouquet grew, those present were made to realize the privilege of having a part in its history. A bouquet of roses was also presented Mrs. R. L. Wester, the only charter member still actively connected with the class at that time.

On behalf of the class, Mrs. Mills gave a beautiful tribute of praise and appreciation to Mrs. Alderman for her long years of splendid service as teacher and co-worker. At this time Reverend A. S. Hale was pastor of the church, and he and Mrs. Hale were greatly loved and respected for their loyal service to the class.

In July, 1940, a Jubilee World-wide Baraca-Philathea Convention was held in Syracuse, New York, in the Baptist Church where Marshall A. Hudson began the movement. At this meeting the Shaw Philathea Class was honored in obtaining a golden certificate based on Bible Study, Christian Service, and toher activities.

The Tri-County Union of Warren, Granville, and Vance Counties was organized in the First Baptist Church, Henderson, March 4, 1941.

Reverend E. Norfleet Gardner, the pastor, gave the inspirational message; and Mrs. C. D. Allen was elected the first president.

The Shaw Philathea Class and Kittrell Baraca Class have faithfully supported the State, District, and Tri-County organizations. Mrs. Bessie Waters, the State Secretary, was a member here, when elected; and the class has given a donation of \$25 each year since, except one, to this work.

All through the years the class has done a great deal of personal service work of all kinds. For at least twenty years prayer services at the County Home and at the Scott Parker Sanatorium have been held by the members of the class regularly almost every month. At Christmas time, gifts were provided for the inmates and sometimes a real Christmas party with a Santa Claus, Lula Davis playing this part at one time.

On each second Sunday of the month a special secret prayer service is held immediately after the lesson period particularly for the unsaved in the community but also for other requests. Mrs. W. C. Stainback and Mrs. W. D. Massee are due much credit for this inner prayer circle, in trying to carry out the motto of the class, "Win the one next to you."

The work of the class has included all kinds of service to others in need in the community such as furnishing clothing, food, sunshine boxes for the sick, also medicine, cottage prayer services, and every form of service.

Several junior classes have been organized by Shaw Philatheas, and one honored Mrs. Mills by using Claire Mills as its name. A silver urn, properly inscribed, was given in memory of Mrs. J. T. Alderman and is often filled with beautiful flowers for the church sanctuary.

Much of the work of the class in recent years has been made possible by a gift of 464 shares of Shufrod Mills Stock by Mrs. R. G. S. Davis in memory of Floy Stainback Daniel, a loyal member of the class. Dividends are paid regularly into the treasury of the class, since begun on September 18, 1947.

In the spring of 1952 the classroom was newly furnished from this memorial fund in memory of Floy, and a copper plaque hangs on the wall in her honor. Mrs. H. A. Dennis was chairman of the committee to select the furniture, and Mrs. N. A. Tucker was chairman of the committee to select the rug.

The class has already contributed generously to the new Educational Building and a donation to the building fund of the Raleigh

Road Mission. For the past three years a generous amount has been given each year to a ministerial student of the First Baptist Church who is attending Wake Forest College.

The class has been most fortunate in having the same Treasurer for thirty-one years from 1925-1956. Mrs. Thelma Tippetts has served in this office very efficiently and joyously, and the entire class appreciates her faithful service.

In 1954 a memorial service was held for Mrs. W. H. Kimball who was a faithful assistant teacher of the class for many years. Almost until her death at eighty-seven years old, she had a sparkle in her eyes undimmed by spectacles and a wit which only a person with a love for teaching could match. She also had many other talents for she could write poetry, paint pictures, sew a fine seam, and do almost anything the class requested and was an inspiration to its members, as she served graciously.

Through the years the class members have enjoyed many social periods together, along with the work; and the fellowship has meant a great deal to each member. Annual picnics, hit and miss suppers, banquets, including one to honor the Baracas, were greatly enjoyed. They have also appreciated the entertainment afforded them each year by the Kittrell Baraca Class usually in the form of a picnic or barbecue supper.

When Dr. E. Norfleet Gardner was conferred his degree from West Hampton College, the class members often apologized for forgetting to use his new title; but he insisted that he still wanted to be addressed in the usual way. When Dr. and Mrs. Gardner left Henderson, the class not only lost a wonderful pastor but one of the finest teachers who had served as an assistant for eight or nine years.

Time marches on, and now Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Leathers, Jr., have greatly endeared themselves to the class in the comparatively short time they have been here. They have been most helpful whenever called upon.

Today, in 1956, the class has an enrollment of around fifty-four and is endeavoring to continue its good record as "laborers together for God" under the leadership of its present efficient teachers: Mrs. M. C. Miles, assisted by Mrs. J. F. Mills, Mrs. F. E. Pinnell, Mrs. Grace Kearney, and Mr. W. C. Clay. The President, Mrs. S. P. Patterson, strives untiringly to keep up the interest and enthusiasm of the class, as she wields her gavel made of wood from the old church, even though the average age of the members is probably the highest in its history. The deeper spirituality and greater consecration of its members is recompense for this fact and with the usual good cooperation,

the class may still reach a higher pinnacle of success in Christian love and service.

PRESIDENTS 1902 - 1956

MRS. NETTIE ELMORE WEARN
MRS. E. F. SHAW (JULIA COOPER)
MRS. C. D. ALLEN
MRS. W. B. DANIEL
MRS. H. A. DENNIS
MRS. MARVIN DAVIS
MRS. C. H. GILLILAND
MRS. R. M. HAWKINS
MRS. W. D. MASSEE
MRS. M. C. MILES
MRS. ALBERT H. PARHAM
MRS. KENNETH H. PATTERSON
MRS. W. C. STAINBACK
MRS. J. C. STAINBACK
MRS. E. G. SHAW
MRS. R. F. THOMPSON
MRS. W. R. TRODGEN
MRS. W. G. WATKINS
MRS. S. P. PATTERSON

Written by—MRS. S. P. PATTERSON
MRS. H. A. DENNIS
MRS. W. D. MASSEE

*HISTORY OF CLARENCE GREENE BARACA CLASS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
HENDERSON, NORTH CAROLINA*

Class was organized as Young Men's Class in 1934, to provide a class for age group between Intermediate age and Kittrell Baraca Class age group. Eugene R. Patterson was first president and Clarence E. Greene first teacher. Other members serving as president were: Glenn Powers, Richard McCaskill, Ray Couch, M. E. (Mickey) Whitmore, Hayden Glover, Ralph Faulkner, Preston Powers, Murray Clayton, Earl Hicks, James Kelley, W. B. Tharrington, William Neathery, and Dr. W. M. Wester, Jr.

The following members have served as either Vice-President or or Secretary: E. V. Bunn, Jr., Charles Lee Parham, John Watson Canady, David Spain, J. C. Hicks, Jr., Ashton Warrick, E. C. Hunt, Eric Kreidt, and John D. Rose, Jr.

The name of the class was changed to Clarence Greene Class in

1941. The original teacher was in military service from September 1940 to November 1945, and during 1942 and 1943 most of the class members entered military service. During the war period a few members remained at home, attended Sunday school with the Kittrell Baraca Class. On December 9, 1945 the class was reorganized with the following members present:

Mills, Randolph
Long, E. C.
Mills, Clifton
Kelly, Burnett
Kelley, James
Dunn, Hunter
Hinton, J. H.
Hunt, E. C. Jr.
Barrier, Edward
Browning, John
Casper, Willie

Parham, Charles Lee
Patterson, Jimmy
Pegram, Elmus W. Jr.
Pinnell, Council
Powers, Glenn
Spruill, Robert D.
Stainback, Adkin
Tharrington, Ben
Warrick, Ashton
Watkin, Ernest
Wester, Bill

Clarence E. Greene, Teacher

The class has grown to an average attendance of approximately 40

"IN MEMORIUM"

This space is dedicated to members to our knowledge
who have gone to their reward.

Charles M. Cooper III - Army Air Forces

Ernest V. Bunn, Jr. - U. S. Marine Corps

Marshall Pinnell

John Watson Cannady

CLAIRE MILLS PHILATEA CLASS
(1939-1956)

Class History Information

The Claire Mills Philathea Class of the First Baptist Church, Henderson, N. C. was organized June, 1939. It was sponsored by the Shaw Philathea Class. Two of the members, Mrs. J. F. Mills who was at the time present of the State Philatheas and Mrs. W. C. Stainback, were the active organizers.

The charter members were:

Mrs. J. G. Parker	Mrs. Thomas Horner
Mrs. L. E. Turner	Mrs. T. L. Dale
Mrs. E. C. Mitchiner	Miss Margaret Bunn
Mrs. Loyd R. Daniel	Miss Vernelle Frazier
Mrs. C. E. Greene	Mrs. Elmus Pegram, Sr.
Mrs. J. S. Lane	Mrs. N. J. Stainback

All are still members of the class with the exception of Miss Margaret Bunn and Miss Vernelle Frazier, who have moved from Henderson.

The following have served as teachers:

Mrs. W. B. Daniels	Mrs. T. G. Horner
Mrs. E. A. Latta	Mrs. W. K. Phillips, Sr.
Mrs. H. W. Glover	Mrs. J. C. Stabler

Special projects are:

1. We have brought a number of books for the class and later presented them to the church library.
2. Donated money to the Girl Scout Camp.
3. Collected clothes and furnished milk for needy school children.
4. During World War II, helped at the U. S. O. Service Club and helped with the contribution and packing of kits which were sent to the Russians.
5. Sponsored several of the Junior Choirs of the church.
6. For the past several years our class has partially clothed and given money to one of our Baptist Orphanage girls at Mills Home.
7. Each year at Christmas time we have helped some needy family.

Activities:

1. Class meeting each 4th Monday Night.
2. For our community mission we have sent in gifts, fruit, flowers, trays and sometimes meals.
3. Remembering all the brides and new babies of class members with

appropriate gifts.

4. Retained our affiliation with the state and National Philatheas and have sent contributions to same.

The special highlight was the celebration of our 5th Birthday.

Our overall enrollment including our teachers and workers in other departments of the Sunday School is seventy-five.

CLARE MILLS PHILATHEA CLASS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—HENDERSON, N. C.

List of Presidents (1939 - 1956)

Mrs. T. L. Dale	39-40	Mrs. N. B. Tuck	47-49
Mrs. W. O. Langley	40-41	Mrs. Loyd Daniel	49-51
Mrs. Elmus Pegram, Sr.	41-42	Mrs. C. H. Cates	51-53
Mrs. T. P. Matthews	42-43	Mrs. C. E. Greene	53-54
Mrs. Coy Beckwith	43-44	Mrs. J. F. Shuman	54-55
Mrs. E. G. Glenn	44-45	Mrs. J. F. Cannady	55-56
Mrs. N. J. Stainback	45-47		

THE HISTORY OF THE RUTH GARDNER CLASS

The Ruth Gardner Class was organized during the autumn of 1945. There was a felt need for a class for young women between the ages of high school graduates and the late thirties. Under the leadership of Miss Dora P. Scarlette, the class was organized with Mrs. Richard J. Jones as teacher and met on the balcony of the sanctuary, no classroom being available.

The death of Ruth Carver Gardner having recently occurred, the class was named for her. She was the wife of our pastor, Dr. E. Norfleet Gardner, and the daughter of Dr. W. O. Carver of Louisville, Kentucky. For years she wrote the Sunday School lessons for the primary Department of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Some of the charter members were as follows: Misses Edna and Jeanette Faulkner, Doris Dennis, Jean Dixon, Peggy Riggsbee, Eunice Clayton, Carolyn Duke, Dorothy Cooper, Neita Allen, Anne Haithcock, and Anne Stainback.

During a long illness and absence of Mrs. Jones in 1950, the class was taught by Mrs. Philip Pangle, acting church secretary, and Mrs. Bessie Waters. In 1951 the class became the Ruth Gardner Philathea Class.

The class had no married members at first; but when the boys returned from World War II, we had several weddings a month for some time, and many from distant states joined us as the wives of our

returning servicemen. We now have young married women only, ages twenty-five through thirty-five.

Besides the usual projects of monthly business and social meetings in homes of the members and working among the needy, the class has a picnic each summer to which all husbands and children of the members are invited. We also have a custom of sending a pillow cor-sage to the hospital to each member who becomes the mother of a new baby.

The class organized the Church Nursery to care for small children during church service, and for years it furnished workers and refreshments alone for this needed service.

Two of our members have traveled far, and the class has had special interest in Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu, Hawaii, where Carolyn Duke Wilkinson teaches a class of Japanese girls. One Christmas the class sent money for Bibles for these girls—another year, bookmarks. We have also helped with buying vestments for a children's choir trained by Dorothy Cooper Peace in a mission in Calcutta, India.

Through the years we have furnished many workers for the Sunday School, so we have an ever-changing group. There are now sixty on roll, with forty-two active members. Mrs. Richard J. Jones is teacher, and Mrs. J. E. Coffey, substitute.

Our aim is to have a wider knowledge of the Bible and to train for greater service in our Master's Kingdom.

Written by Helen J. Jones

JUNIOR PHILATHEA CLASS, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Junior Philathea class was organized in October, 1947 with five charter members, namely: Mrs. Daniel Briley, Mrs. Archie Rozier, Miss Marie Puckett, Mrs. W. W. Boltz and Miss Elizabeth Newton, (now Mrs. Arch Taylor, Jr. of Oxford). Mrs. E. A. Latta has been the teacher of the class since its organization. Prior to that she was substitute teacher in the Claire Mills class. Mrs. Julia Currin Read is now the assistant teacher.

The class has grown to 52 members and has proven to be a great asset to the church, for now the class is furnishing teachers in other departments of the Sunday School. The class still retains the teachers on their Service Roll and they meet with the class at their monthly meetings.

Mrs. E. A. Latta

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Our church and the community it serves owe a deep debt to the loyal and capable service of its women. Pastors are always sure of their cooperation as individuals and as organizations. The Woman's Missionary Union is an auxiliary of the Baptist State Convention.

Following is an article which appeared in the HENDERSON DAILY DISPATCH twenty-four years ago, dated March 8, 1932:

"The Women's Missionary Union represents most important activities. Its president is Mrs. J. R. Singleton. The Maria Parham Missionary Society gives the following report by Mrs. W. H. Kimball who has been its faithful secretary for ten years. Records show that this, the mother society, was organized October, 1883, in the home of Mrs. J. R. Thrower on Clark street with eleven charter members.. The second meeting was held in the home of Mrs. J. L. H. Missillier with the addition of five members. The first officers were: President, Mrs. Maggie Smith; Vice-President, Mrs. Maria Parham, Secretary, Mrs. Harry Lassiter (who was afterwards Mrs. T. M. Pittman); Treasurer, Mrs. J. L. H. Missillier; Executive Committee, Mrs. W. D. Horner, Mrs. Cora Phelps and Mrs. Wilderson. Dr. M. V. McDuffee was pastor at the time. The offering at the first meeting was \$1.40 and the total given for all objects the first year was \$79.00.

Mrs. Maria Parham who was the first Vice-President and a loyal member was from time to time actively engaged in various phases of the work, for several years she served as President, and her inspirational leadership was far reaching. Her worthy co-laborers continued the work she loved after her passing in 1903, perpetuated her memory by giving the society her name; so her influence still lives and the Maria Parham Missionary Society now has a membership of about 80. Its activities are expanding and its yearly contributions to missions are estimated at \$800.00.

As it was born in noble hearts of the past so it is fostered by its loyal true members of today.

While with pride we look backward to a half century of service, with zeal we are grappling the problems of the present and with high ideals and broader visions we are looking hopefully to the future. Personal service work has been emphasized from the first. With unflagging interest the regular programs of missionaries and business sessions have been conducted with spirit and earnestness through the years.

Officers have been wisely chosen after thought and prayers and

many have served long and well, to whom our thanks are still due. Could we see before us a personal service report of the years, its numbers would startle us, filled out in detail, as a summary of all but would stimulate and inspire. This however is not practical but in general we can say that we have done much in the Master's name by giving to the needy food, clothing, bedding, trays, poundings, Christmas baskets, groceries, fruits, flowers and so forth, and also by sending help to hospitals and girls in training.

In addition to monthly contributions and response to all special appeals, we have given yearly about one hundred dollars for charity. A few years ago our society organized four circles, each with its own officers and meeting monthly, interest, attendance and enthusiasm have been greatly increased through the work of the circles. One circle has weekly cottage prayer meetings, the jail and county hospitals are visited, programs given in the negro churches and so forth. In January, 1931, another change was made in the song practiced customs. We abolished refreshments, voting to give \$3.00 or more monthly to missions. This move was enthusiastically approved by the members and has greatly augmented our mission fund. We are hoping later to have a more definite foreign mission project.

The cooperation of Dr. H. A. Ellis and wife has been a great incentive in our work and has greatly promoted the progress of our society. Present officers are: President, Mrs. J. C. Whaley; Vice-President, Mrs. W. W. Parker; Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Kimball; Treasurer, Miss Eugenia Thrower.

The Corinne Parker Woman's Missionary Society is an outgrowth of the Young Women's Auxiliary. The Y. W. A. was formed in 1916 with Mrs. Duke as president and Mrs. Richard Jones as secretary. After some years, through the influence of the pastor's wife, Mrs. S. L. Morgan, the Auxiliary became a Woman's Missionary Society, taking the name of Corinne Parker, a former beloved leader. Its president was Miss Hattie Cooper. Its earliest secretaries were Mrs. C. M. Cooper, Jr., and Mrs. W. E. Walker. The society Benevolent activities have been outstanding. Constant care of the sick, the needy, the distressed had characterized this splendid group of women. For many months substantial and loving aid was given to a student at Campbell College. Its present activity is to support a Bible woman in China. It is very valuable in enlisting young married women coming into town. Every Sunday it makes the church beautiful with flowers and at Easter and Christmas their services in this respect are as valuable as they are lovely. The membership is about eighty-one. The president is Mrs. Morton Miles and the secretary Mrs. Lindo Griffin.

The Sue Kelly Society has taken the place of the Business Wom-

en's society, which rendered good service for some years under the presidency of Mrs. R. B. Green. The officers are: Miss Lillian Evans President, Vice-President, Mrs. M. B. Garrett, Secretary Mrs. Asa Wright; Treasurer, Mrs. M. L. Wood. The Sue Kelly Society is a branch of the general Woman's Missionary Union made up mostly of young business women, consequently our meetings are held at night.. They have a very enthusiastic group of girls about twenty on the roll. Every phase of regular missionary work carried out.

The most outstanding work is the support of a Chinese Bible Woman who is working in Shanghai under the supervision of Dr. H. A. McMillan.

The Young Women's Auxiliary with a membership of twenty-one, under the leadership of Mrs. E. A. Latta, meets monthly with Inez Murrell as president, and Margaret Bunn as secretary.

The Girl's Auxiliary founded by Miss Carrie Burton and Mrs. Ellis, and ably led in turn by Mrs. Jennette and Mrs. W. K. Phillips is now led by Mrs. Duke and Mrs. G. W. Knott. About twenty five enthusiastic members meet monthly with Ann Mills as president and Elizabeth Shaw as secretary.

The Royal Ambassadors—a boys' organization has been conducted by Mrs. J. R. Teague, Mrs. J. C. Whaley and now by Mrs. Ruth Sherman Garrett and Mrs. L. E. Cansler, with Wallace Kelly as president and E. V. Bunn, Jr., as secretary.

The Sunbeam Band under Miss Sue Kelly with Florence Whaley as president and Miriam Pinnell in charge of the program, meets once a month.

All the Missionary Societies are united into one Union whose first president was Miss Sue Kelly. Mrs. T. M. Pittman was president for two yeras, followed by Mrs. Parker, who is president of the Vance County Woman's Missionary Union, and Miss Sue Kelly and Mrs. W. W. Parker have been presidents of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Tar River Association.. Miss Kelly was the first woman to address the men of the association.

A most important work is done for the training of Young People by the leaders and sponsors of the Junior Branches of the B. Y. P. U. Mrs. J. C. Whaley directed the children from nine until eleven. Mrs. S. P. Patterson and Mrs. J. C. Stainback those from eleven to twelve years. Each of these is supported by a fine band of sponsors.

Several of the ladies of the church conduct a much appreciated service for children on Sunday morning. During the singing of the hymn before the sermon, the children under eleven years retire for

their story period and return to the auditorium during the singing of the last hymn. There is an attendance of from forty to sixty children."

Down through the years, the women of our church have served untiringly for the Master and their contribution in time, talents and finances have been in a large measure responsible for the heights to which our church has attained.

At present, the W. M. U. has 11 Circles with a total enrollment of 396.

HENDERSON BARACA-PHILATHEA CONVENTION

April 21, 22, 23 and 24, 1921

Henderson has the distinction of having been the home of the First Philathea class in the South, organized February 1901 in the First Baptist Church by Capt. Wm. B. Shaw, of Henderson, N. C. This class was taught by Capt. Shaw for a number of years and later turned over to Mrs. J. T. Alderman, the present teacher.

LOCAL CONVENTION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	{ E. F. Shaw, Chairman Miss Mary Mary McElwee J. N. Fennelly
FINANCE	J. A. Barron, Chairman
HOUSING	A. H. Ernst, Chairman
CONVENTION QUARTER	J. R. Teague, Chairman
ENTERTAINMENT	Mrs. G. R. McKewn, Chairman
PUBLICITY	H. A. Dennis, Chairman
DECORATING	Mrs. J. T. Elmore, Jr., Chairman
TRANSPORTATION	E. S. Yarbrough, Chairman
INFORMATION	Miss Eva Moore, Chairman
DEVOTIONAL	Mrs. T. L. Manning, Chairman
MUSIC	M. C. Cooper, Chairman
COOPERATION	E. F. Shaw, Chairman

THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF
NORTH CAROLINA BARACA-PHILATHEA UNION
HELD IN HENDERSON

HENDERSON DAILY DISPATCH

Friday, April 17, 1942

"SPIRITUAL DEFENSE" IS THEME OF BIBLE WORKERS

*Number of Talks Heard During Afternoon; Welcome to be Extended
At Tonight's Meeting, Followed by Reception to Guests*

With an estimated attendance of more than one hundred delegates and visitors, together with representatives of many local Bible classes the thirtieth annual convention of the North Carolina Baraca Philathea Union opened here this afternoon. Sessions were scheduled for tonight, tomorrow morning, afternoon and night, and Sunday morning and afternoon.

The First Baptist church is host to the convention, and its pastor, Rev. E. Norfleet Gardner, is convention chairman. Mrs. J. Franklin Mills, of this church, is president of the State Philathea Union, completing her fourth year in that capacity. She has been for many years teaching at the Shaw Philathea class of the First Baptist church, oldest Philathea class in the South.

J. Paul Murray, of Canton, State Baraca president, notified convention leaders he would be unable to attend the convention, and O. A. Johnson, of Durham, former State president and now worldwide director, will alternate with Mrs. Mills in presiding over the convention.

Delegates registered this afternoon at 2 o'clock, and at 2:30 the United Secret Service group met in the ladies' parlor of the church. The first session of the convention was held in the auditorium at 3 o'clock, with Mr. Johnson presiding. Rev. B. C. Reavis, pastor of the First Methodist church, was in charge of the devotional period.

Under the theme, "Baracas and Philatheas at the Front in Spiritual Defense", five speakers were heard for five minutes each as follows: "In the Study of the Bible," Lawrence J. Pace, Asheville "In the Support of the Bible School," by K. Edwin Fussell, Winston Salem; "In Strengthening the Ministry of the Pastor," Mrs. W. B. Sprinkle, Canton; "In Reaching Out With a Program for Others," Dr. W. W. Noel, Henderson, and "Listening for the Word of the Great Commander," Henry A. Dennis, Henderson.

The Henderson high school glee club was heard in a number,

"My God, My Father, While I Pray," followed by reports from various classes, and then a business session. Committees were appointed by Mrs. Mills on attendance, awards, nominations, time and place of the 1943 convention.

Tonight's program, presided over by Mrs. Mills, included a devotional period by Rev. I. W. Hughes, rector of Holy Innocents Episcopal church, and welcome addresses. Rev. J. P. Pegg, Methodist minister, speaks for the Henderson Ministerial Association, Mayor Henry Powell on behalf of the city; Smith H. Young, secretary, for Henderson Chamber of Commerce; J. R. Teague, chairman of the board of deacons, for the First Baptist church, and Mrs. C. C. Allen for the Tri County Baraca Philathea Union. The response is by O. A. Johnson, of Durham.

Dr. C. N. Clark, Methodist district superintendent, of Salisbury, was on the program for an address, "Spiritual Defense," with the benediction by Rev. J. K. Worthington, pastor of City Road and White Memorial Methodist churches of Henderson.

An informal reception was scheduled for 9 p. m. in the ladies' parlor of the First Methodist church, sponsored by Junior Baracas and Philatheas of the First Baptist church and honoring State officers and speakers.

Reports and business transactions will take up morning and afternoon sessions tomorrow, with the annual convention banquet in the evening in the basement of the First Baptist church. Ben W. Parham of Oxford, will be the toastmaster, and the speakers will be Miss Henrietta Heron, of Washington, D. C., counselor of the Worldwide Baraca Philathea Union, and R. N. Simms, prominent attorney of Raleigh, teacher of the Simms Bible class in Tabernacle Baptist church, and former president of the Baptist State Convention and of the North Carolina Baraca Philathea Union. Mr. Hedrick is also on the program, together with J. C. Kittrell and Mrs. J. T. Alderman, of Henderson.

A sunrise consecration service Sunday morning at 7:30 o'clock will be presided over by Msis Gladis Kivett, of High Point, State Baraca Philathea secretary, and Miss Heron will be the speaker.

At the morning worship, when Rev. E. Norfleet Gardner, pastor of the host church, will preside, R. N. Simms will be the chief speaker and will be introduced by B. W. Hedrick. Mr. Simms' subject will be "Baracas and Philatheas and Their Church."

Mr. Hedrick will preside at the closing session Sunday Afternoon at 2:15 o'clock. Rev. W. D. McInnis, pastor of the Henderson

First Presbyterian church, will lead the devotions, and Miss Heron will install the officers. Dr. Gilbert T. Rowe, of the divinity school of Duke University, will be the principal speaker, on the subject, "Christians in the War."

*WELL KNOWN CHURCH LEADERS
ATTENDING CONVENTION HERE*

Attending the thirtieth annual session of North Carolina Baraca Philathea Union are several who have made distinct contributions to religious growth in the country. Carrying out the idea of Marshall A. Hudson, founder of the Baraca movement, Miss Henrietta Heron has been the chief inspirations to Baracas and Philatheas throughout the nation. She comes from Washington, D. C., to lead in a Secret Service Session, to present the world wide ministry to Baracas and Philatheas, and to conduct the installation of new officers, slated for the closing session Sunday afternoon.

The worldwide president of the Baraca Philathea Union is B. V. Hedrick, quiet, firm, business leader of Salisbury, North Carolina. He is serving his second term as president, having been elected first at Rochester, New York, and again at Los Angeles, California, and will preside over the closing session. His wife who was general chairman of the last annual meeting, is attending the convention with Mr. Hedrick.

Among the general advisors, and counselors are the following: A. B. Saleeby, of Salisbury, one of the most dynamic promotors of the movement for many years; O. A. Johnson, of Durham, and B. D. Bunn, of Oxford, who is the chairman of the State Board of Baracas and Philatheas.

Any write up would be incomplete without reference to the presence of other State officers. Mr. and Mrs. K. Edwin Fussel, of Winston Salem, are treasurer and Philathea advisor, respectively, are among the most appreciated visitors at a State conventoin. Miss Gladis Kivett, of High Point, former State Philathea president, is completing four years of service as secretary for the Union in North Carolina. The presidents of the two groups are J. Paul Murray, of Canton, who is completing his second year in leading the Baracas, and Mrs. J. Franklin Mills, of Henderson, whose capable leadership has been recognized by her serving fourth year as president of the Philatheas, longer than any other in the history of the North Carolina Philathea movement.

Other former presidents attending the convention this weekend include the following Baracas: J. Edward Allen, of Warrenton;

Lawrence J. Pace, of Asheville; E. G. Shaw of Henderson, O. A Johnson of Durham, and B. D. Bunn, of Oxford.

Walter V. Brown, of Hillsboro, who served as State president for the Junior Baraca Philathea Union of North Carolina at the last annual meeting in Henderson in 1921, is also present and has a part on the program.

Among the delegates are also the following women who have served as Philathea presidents: Mrs. E. A. Huggins, of Tarboro, Miss Bertha Cates, of Burlington, Mrs. B. W. Hedrick, of Salisbury, Miss Gladis Kivett, of High Point, and Mrs. J. Franklin Mills, of Henderson.

The key note address on "Spiritual Defense" will be delivered Friday evening by Dr. C. N. Clark, Methodist District superintendent of Salisbury. At the fellowship luncheon Saturday in the high school cafeteria, Rev. Arhtur W. Rich, Jr., pastor of the Fairmont Baptist church, of Richmond, Virginia, is to speak.

Sunday morning at eleven o'clock at the First Baptist church, convention message will be delivered by R. N. Simms, Sr. of Raleigh, teacher of the oldest Baraca class in the South. His subject is "Baracas and Philatheas and Their Church." The closing address will be delivered Sunday afternoon by Dr. Gilbert Rowe, of Duke University, on the subject, "Christians in the War."

To all of the sessions of the convention the people of the community are invited.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE HENDERSON DISPATCH:

STATE B. Y. P. U. HELD IN HENDERSON

APRIL 15, 1927

DR. GEORGE W. McDANIEL, PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, ADDRESSES B. P. U. ORGANIZATION

Officers of the three branches of the Baptist Young Peoples Union in the First Baptist church of Henderson are as follows:

Senior B. Y. P. U.

Miss Ruby Faulkner, President
Miss Kate Mustian, Recording Secretary
Miss Bessie Evans, Corresponding Secretary
J. R. Carter, Treasurer
E. G. Shaw, Quiz Leader

Miss Mildred Murrell, Pianist
 Mrs. W. L. Reich, Chorister
 Miss Frances Neathery and W. L. Reich, Group Captains

Intermediate B. Y. P. U.

Miss Catherine Turner, President
 Miss Helen Royster, Vice-President
 Miss Helen Mills, Secretary
 Miss Hallie Frank Mills, Pianist
 Miss Agnes Mustian, Chorister
 Miss Mary Gunter, Bible Quiz Leader
 Group Leaders: Miss Inez Murrell, capt. of Group No.1
 Miss Mildred Hughes, capt., Group No. 2

Junior B. Y. P. U.

Miss Ruth Hughes, President
 Claud Whaley, Vice-President
 Miss Kathleen Fogleman, Secretary
 Miss Dorothy Wester, Treasurer
 Miss Katherine Smith, Pianist
 Miss Althea Perry, Chorister
 Group Captains: Jasper Teague, G. W. Knott, Miss Margaret Turner and Mary Meadows Duke.
 Sponsors: Mrs. L. A. Skinner, Mrs. J. C. Whaley, Mrs. R. H. Duke.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE HENDERSON DISPATCH, APRIL 15, 1927:

STATE B. Y. P. U. HAS EXPERIENCED LARGE GROWTH

*Expansion Was Slow in First Decade After Its Organization
 in the Year 1900*

ITS WORK PART OF STATE CONVENTION

Its Object is Spiritual Development of Young Christians and to Bring Them into Close Relationship with Baptist Denomination in the State

By PERRY MORGAN
State B. Y. P. U. Secretary

The Baptist Young People's Union of North Carolina was Organized about the year 1900 or 1899. At that time the movement was not widespread nor was it of great strength numerically. For a decade growth was slow. In 1909 on the Southern Baptist Assembly grounds at Ridgecrest, a group of North Carolina young people, led by Dr. B. W. Spilman, re-organized the State B. Y. P. U. A call was issued for

a state-wide convention at Durham, where in 1910 a Statewide cooperative union with a distinct constitution and plan of work was formed. In 1912 there was a general revival in interest in Baptist Young People's Union work in the State.

It was the belief of those in touch with the State organization that the B. Y. P. U could be made a very effective agency for training young people. At the first convention held in Durham there were ten unions reported with a membership about 350. There are now 2,013 B. Y. P. U's with more than 60,000 members. The growth has been steady in city, town and country churches alike and has been nothing short of marvelous.

The B. Y. P. U. work is a department of the work of the General Board of Missions and Education of the Baptist State Convention. It has for its object the spiritual development of young Christians, their training in essential church activities; their edification in Scripture knowledge; their instruction in Baptist doctrine and history; their enlistment in all forms of missionary endeavor, to help the young Christian find himself, to cultivate the missionary spirit in the lives of the young Christians, to train in church recreational training for young Christians. An analysis of the object of the B. Y. P. U reveals in three words its meaning; viz: consecration, preparation and service.

The Baptist Young People's Union has had a marvelous growth, which can be accounted for by the fact that it has been true to the idea that responsibility rightly assumed develops leadership, initiative and character. The plan of organization provides just enough adult supervision to assure the right direction for the work, recognizing at all times that the young people must feel that it belongs to them and that they must operate it. This measure of autonomy varies, of course, with the different ages.

The B. Y. P. U. is under the control of and operates under the auspices of the Baptist of North Carolina. The purpose of this movement is to bring the young people in the Baptist churches in close touch with and enlist them in definite cooperation and active participation in all the work of the Baptist Denomination. It has no program aside from the program of North Carolina Baptist."

The Baptist Young People's Union (B. Y. P. U.) was changed to Baptist Training Union (B. T. U.) around the year 1934 with the objectives being about the same. However, the Training Union is not limited to young people but includes all age groups. This provides a means by which nay church member may train in church membership.

B. Y. P. U. reported enrollment of 83 in 1925 and B. T. U shows an enrollment of 340 in 1956.

The Brotherhood is one of the newer organizations of our church in that it was organized in 1954. This church group provides spiritual fellowship for the men and give emphasis and support to all phases of the church program. Their most recent project is "Fill The Pews For Evening Worship".

ORGANISTS

1. Mrs. Maria Parham
2. Miss Lucy Dean (Mrs. D. G. Moss)
3. Miss Kate Dean (Mrs. S. W. Gregory)
4. Miss Mattie Dean (Mrs. J. H. Bunn)
5. Miss Lillian Dean (Mrs. R. E. Powell)
6. Miss Bettie Pittman Davis—1914-1919
7. Mrs. Richard Jones—1919-1922
8. Miss Dorothy Jones—1922-1934 — Also Choir Director
9. Mrs. E. G. Davis—1935-1952
10. Mrs. Dorothy Anderson—1952-1953
11. Mrs. Robert Taylor—April 9, 1953-

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORS

1. Miss Elizabeth Lassiter—1941
2. Miss Dora Page Scarlett—1946
3. Miss Martha Hawthorne—1955
4. Miss Sarah Lunsford—1956 -

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH THAT HAVE BECOME PREACHERS

1. Dr. Archibald Cree
2. Dr. Raymond Nelson
3. S. L. Morgan, Jr.
4. L. M. Dixon
5. E. M. Powell
6. John C. Gill, Jr.
7. Bobby C. Jones
8. Jay Fogleman

MEMORIALS

AUSTIN PIPE ORGAN— by Robert Lassiter in memory of his grandparents

LARGE MEMORIAL WINDOW— by S. S. Parham and W. B. Parham
in memory of their mother, Mrs.
Maria Parham

PULPIT FURNITURE— by J. B. Owen, in memory of his wife

COMMUNION TABLE & TWO CHAIRS— by Philathea Class

CHIMES— by Mrs. A. T. Barnes in memory of A. T. Barnes

PULPIT BIBLE— by Mrs. J. T. Elmore

VASES— given in memory of Mrs. Julia Cooper Shaw by Corrinne
Parker Missionary Society

PEWS— in memory of De Macus L. Bowen and his wife Sabrina F.
Bowen

DESK AND CHAIRS— in Ladies Parlor by the Philathea Class

SILVER PITCHER— in memory of Miss Constance Ellis

BRONZE BOWL— by family of J. H. Bunn

BRONZE VASE— by Mrs. E. H. Thomas

MAGNOLIAS IN CHURCH YARD— by Mrs. Richard Jones in memory
of her sister, Miss Dorothy Jones
by Mrs. R. T. Upchurch in memory
of Mrs. J. L. H. Missillier

MEMORIALS FOR THE NEW EDUCATION BUILDING

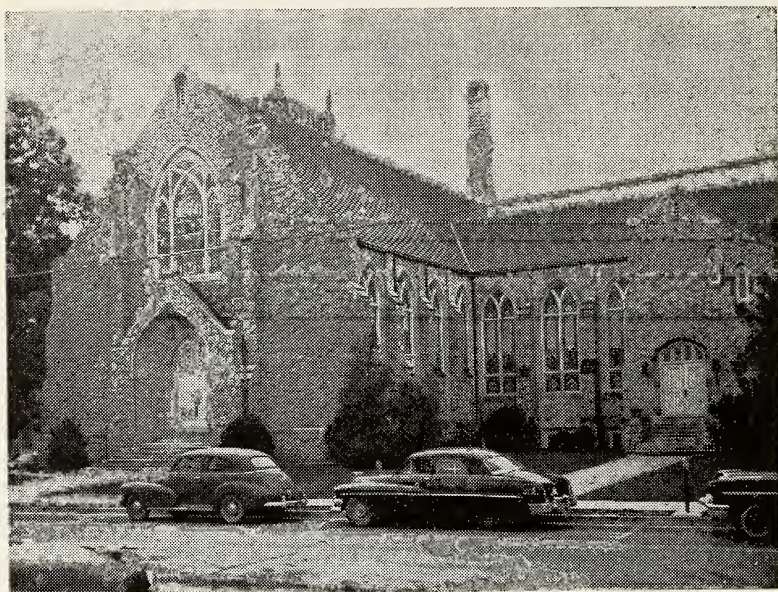
PEWS IN CHAPEL— By Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Pinnell in memory of
their son, Marshall Pinnell

ELECTRIC ORGAN IN CHAPEL— by Mr. T. Woody Evans in memory
of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.
T. Evans

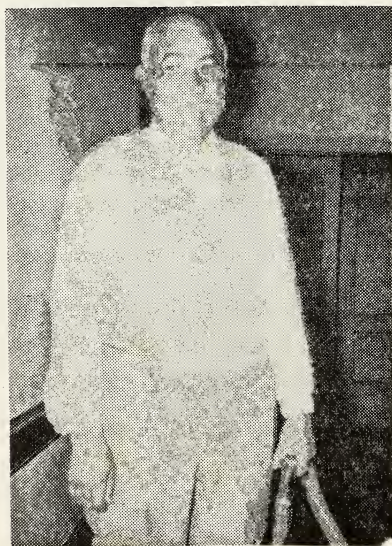
As can be seen from this historical sketch a diversified program of religious activities has been carried on by this Church over the past one hundred years, influencing the lives of it's members and outward into the community.

May its achievements be an inspiration and a challenge for greater accomplishments for the Master in the future.

THE END



FRONT VIEW OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



GOVAN REAVIS, Custodian

